



Fairfield Area School District Gifted Program

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Dear Parent(s),

I hope everyone is staying warm as we have proceeded into this fall weather and don't forget to fall back and change the clocks this weekend! I know I have been utilizing Schoology (grades 5-12) this year, but for parents who don't have access to it yet, I'm sending out this newsletter to update you on some interesting events and news.

This year, I have taken on the full time gifted support teacher position and I have been very busy trying to improve the program to meet our student's academic needs. I also have been working at increasing communication between myself and the other teachers and with you! I started this year off with ensuring that all the teachers who have our students are aware of their GIEPs and how to meet their needs, along with setting up a shared folder of resources and professional development regarding the gifted student and advanced learning. Each teacher was provided information regarding what gifted is, characteristics, strategies, and the screening process here at Fairfield Area School District. I have been sending out emails and posting resources on Schoology for your student(s) and yourself to have access too. Furthermore, I've been encouraging our students to utilize the google resources so they may share their work with me. This way, I can monitor their work and engage in communication via online comments and collaboration.

Since the beginning of the school year, the students have jumped in and have been working diligently on their individualized projects. It seemed as if they never took a break and were excited to get back to learning. I have been doing the same, researching opportunities, planning the student's individualized projects, and supporting them in their implementation. Some students have already completed projects, presented, and are on to the next activity!

Lastly, I want to extend a thank you for your continued support. Please don't hesitate to contact me at any time to discuss any concerns, comments, or achievements in regards to your child. My goal is to ensure success for each student.

Warm Regards,

Jocelyn West
westj@fairfield.k12.pa.us

Important News

Schoology: Please log into your students account to view the resources and updates I have posted. Students 5th to 12th grade should have access to their accounts. You will have to use the student's username and password to gain access. Any questions please contact me. Elementary Parents: I will still send emails when new opportunities arise for the students.

Speech and Debate: We have now started a Speech and Debate team here at Fairfield Area High School for 9th to 12th graders. The students went to observe a beginner's tournament on October 20 at Gettysburg High School. The high schoolers will be attending their first Speech and Debate Tournament at Dallastown High School on November 10. Wish them luck!

PAGE Conference: I will be attending the PAGE conference this year. I am very excited for this opportunity. It will take place on November 29th and 30th in Pittsburgh, PA. I am expecting to learn more information about Gifted and am looking forward to applying it in the classroom and passing it on to the students and teachers. For those of you who are unaware, PAGE stands for "Pennsylvania Association for Gifted Education. Their website is <https://www.giftedpage.org/>. Please visit it, as it provides very useful information to help you as an advocator and as a parent.

School Website: The school's website now offers a link to a page relaying gifted information here at Fairfield Area School District. Please visit the district webpage as it may provide you with useful information! You will find the link under the 'Services' tab. **Future newsletters will be available via the website. It can be found under the 'Blog' tab, located on the left hand side of the Gifted webpage.**



Current Events:

The Cyber Robotics Coding Competition:

- Students 5th-8th grade have the opportunity to compete in this online STEM simulation to complete missions while learning to code to robot. These missions are individualized, but their scores go towards the good of the group!

Why I Honor the American Flag?:

- Students were given the opportunity to submit an essay to the local VFW. The essay required students to write their thoughts and reasons referencing why they honor the American Flag.

Future Opportunities: Please encourage your child to participate if eligible!

Letters About Literature:

- This is an Essay Submission for 4th to 12th graders. Students will write to their favorite authors in a letter from, describing how their piece has effected them or the world.

It Can Wait!

- This is an Essay Submission for 9th-12th graders. Students write a submission regarding the don't text and drive movement. This event is through the Gettysburg Times.

Engineer Girl

- This is an Essay Submission for 3rd-12th grader. Students will write a short story applying engineer principles to solve a problem with a female main character.