



**Maryland Coalition for
Gifted and Talented Education
(MCGATE)
Annual Conference**

Saturday, April 26, 2008

8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

High Point High School,
3601 Powder Mill Road, Beltsville, MD 20705

Advocacy for Achievement:
Support your Gifted Child's Success

Conference Agenda

8:30 a.m.	Sign-in/Coffee	<i>Cafeteria</i>
9:00 a.m.	Keynote address: <i>How to Advocate for Your Exceptional Child</i> Rich Weinfeld	<i>Cafeteria</i>
9:45 – 10:30	<i>Brunch</i> <i>Book Signing/Sales with Rich Weinfeld</i>	<i>Cafeteria</i>
10:40 – 11:25	Session I	<i>Second floor classrooms 202- 208</i>
11:30 – 12:15	Session II	<i>Second floor classrooms 202-208, Cafeteria</i>
12:20 – 1:00	MCGATE Annual Meeting (open to all)	<i>Cafeteria</i>

Conference Sessions

Session 1 10:40 – 11:20

Supporting the Talents and Achievement of Smart Kids with Learning Difficulties (SKLD)

Rose R. Blucher, Special Education Instructional Specialist, Prince George's County Public Schools

Practical strategies for supporting the gifts, learning styles and achievement of “Smart Kids with Learning Difficulties” are the focus of this session! Participants will be involved in simulations, activities and discussions which outline the characteristics of these students, reasons for identifying their unique needs, and specific services to assist them. Nurturing talents while strengthening the organizational, academic and social/emotional skills will be addressed.

Room 202 **Target Audience: Parents and Educators, K – 12**

Teaching Your Gifted Child to Write

Joan Cable, Gifted and Talented Specialist, Harford County Public Schools

Many elementary-aged children excel in reading and verbal language but lack the skills needed to express their analytical and imaginative ideas in advanced written form. This presentation will provide practical strategies and graphic organizers that will help to accelerate your child's writing ability. Each participant will receive a CD of the presentation strategies and organizers.

Room 204 **Target Audience: Parents and Educators, K – 5**

Work with It: Use Your Child's Learning Style to Support Success

Dr. Jeanne Paynter, Specialist for Gifted and Talented Education, Maryland State Department of Ed.

Do you struggle with your child over the organization of time and tasks? Wish your child would “chill” and not be so intense? Do you have a youngster who daydreams and dawdles, or one who won't take risks? Using the Four Learning Styles framework, you can identify your child's unique style and strengths as well as those areas that you *wish* you could change but can only learn to *work with*.

Room 206 **Target Audience: Parents and Educators, K – 12**

How to Start a Local Advocacy Group

Rick Tyler and Laura Carriere, MCGATE

Public advocacy is essential to maintain and support quality programs and services for exceptional children. Every school system needs an active Gifted and Talented Advocacy group, and one of MCGATE's goals is to help you get started and stay strong. This session will share proven strategies and resources for starting a local advocacy group and tips for avoiding pitfalls. Even if your numbers are few, never underestimate what a small but organized group can accomplish!

Room 208 **Target Audience, Parents and Educators, K - 12**

Conference Session 2. 11:30 – 12:15

Helping Boys Succeed in School

Rich Weinfeld, Consultant, Weinfeld Education Group

By now, most of us have heard that boys are not doing as well as girls inside or outside of school. For example, a smaller percentage of boys than girls are participating in honors and Advanced Placement classes. Rather than focusing on changing boys to fit our schools, we can learn how schools can capitalize on the strengths of boys. Practical strategies for ensuring boys' successful futures will be shared.

Cafeteria **Target Audience: Parents and Educators, K – 12.**

Teaching Your Gifted Child to Think

Joan Cable, Gifted and Talented Specialist, Harford County Public Schools

Thinking skills are necessary tools in today's society, a society characterized by rapid change. But how do we teach children how to think? This presentation will focus on strategies that parents and teachers can use to engage children in careful reflective thought. Each participant will receive a CD of the presentation.

Room 204 **Target Audience: Parents and Educators, K – 5**

Wooing the Wonder: Early Childhood Enrichment

Kathleen Cecil, Specialist for Primary Talent Development, Maryland State Department of Education

How do we nurture the talent we see emerging in young children? By cherishing discovery! We will discuss current research in the gifted and early childhood fields lauding hands-on activities that develop children's sense of wonder. Participants will take home ideas that are developmentally appropriate for challenging bright learners. Learn how to advocate for integration of play and learning to create balance in the life of a child you care about.

Room 206 **Target Audience: Parents and Educators, Pre-k – 2**

How to Make Good Choices in Educational Planning

Jo Lynn Chadwick, MCGATE

So many choices, so little time! Explore how gifted students in grades 6 – 12 can be proactive in planning their education and achieving their goals. This workshop presents a "road map" to guide students as they travel from middle school to high school, to college, and beyond.

Room 208 **Target Audience: Parents and Educator, Grades 6 – 12.**

12:20 – 1:00

MCGATE ANNUAL MEETING – Open to all!

Come to the MCGATE annual meeting to learn more about MCGATE's mission and how you can become informed and involved. *Advocacy for Achievement* of gifted children begins with *you!*