

## Notes from GTAC Steering Committee Meeting on 9/14/2017

*Please note: This meeting was intended to handle "housekeeping" matters for the GTAC Steering Committee; as such, sometimes the topics discussed were not of general interest. I will focus the notes below on content that is of broad, general interest to parents of elementary-age kids.*

1. All information related to G/T education in Howard County can be found at this site: <http://www.hcpss.org/academics/gifted-and-talented/>
2. Information related to parent involvement in G/T education in Howard County can be found here: <http://www.hcpss.org/academics/gifted-and-talented/parent-involvement/>
3. Instructional seminars will start in October. Seminars are designed to extend student interests beyond general exploratory experiences. Instructional seminar projects will be displayed at GES's annual Night of Excellence in the spring. Teachers, students, or parents may nominate students to participate in an instructional seminar.
4. Guilford ES, Bolman Bridge ES, and Deep Run ES are the three schools engaged in a pilot program this year to close gaps in primary-age analytical reasoning and learning strategies. The program will expand to an additional four schools next year. If you have questions about this pilot program, please speak with Ms. McNamara, Ms. Stetz, or Mr. Davis.
5. If the G/T Web site above does not answer all of your G/T curriculum questions, there is a G/T Program Overview Parent Academy on October 11, 2017, at Howard High School from 7 to 8:30 pm. This large public event is repeated every fall.
6. Ellen Kim, dean of undergraduate admissions at Johns Hopkins University, will be speaking at the College Night Parent Academy in November. Date, venue, and time TBD. She will address general college admissions concerns, not those specific to JHU. Please note that College Nights are not annual events; if you are the parent of an older elementary student or have a child in middle school, you may want to attend this event because the next College Night could be a few years from now.
7. In January (time, venue, and date TBD), Kathy Gregory will present the "Philosophy through Picture Books" Parent Academy. Although this event is directed toward younger children (early childhood), past attendees heartily endorse it for parents of students of all ages.
8. A Parent Academy on growth mindset may take place in March. The G/T office is looking into it now and will provide an update later this fall.
9. Every spring, GTAC hosts an event to celebrate educators who make a meaningful difference in the lives of advanced-level learners throughout Howard County. This year's G/T Educator Recognition Night took place on April 19, 2017, at Howard High School. More than 100 educators were celebrated this year, and four of them were GES teachers! The 2018 G/T Educator Recognition Night will take place in April (exact date, time, and venue TBD).