

NEWS FROM ACADEMICALLY GIFTED

The Middle School Edition

Quarter 4

Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened. ~ **Dr. Seuss**

FREE Parent Virtual Session:

As we approach the end of school year, it's time to celebrate the accomplishments your child achieved during this very challenging year. As parents it's important to celebrate the victories – no matter how small they may seem. To help gifted students and their families finish the year strong, the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) along with the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth (CTY) invite parents to a FREE conversation with experts to share ideas and learn new strategies for engaging, motivating, and supporting gifted children through pandemic stress. The event will be held virtually, on April 21st at 7:00pm. [Click here](#) for registration information. We encourage all families to register for this free opportunity.



Summer Opportunities:



The AG Department is tentatively planning to host the 2021 Academic All-Star Camp. The camp is for rising 9th grade students and is by invitation only. The top 30 eighth grade students from each of the district's middle schools will receive an invitation to register for the camp. As soon as the district confirms summer programming, the AG Department will notify each school's Team for Academically Gifted (TAG) Chair so that they will be able to coordinate student notification. [Click here](#) for more information and updates regarding the Academic All-Star Camp.

For all advanced and gifted students, we encourage you to investigate what summer enrichment opportunities will be available for Summer 2021. Listed below are programs that have been available in previous years. The AG Department is unable to confirm if these programs will be offered for 2021. (Note: These programs have not been vetted nor endorsed by Guilford County Schools):

- [All-Arts, Science, and Technology Camp at UNC-G](#)
- [Community Theatre of Greensboro](#)
- [Ferrum College Summer Enrichment Camps](#)
- [North Carolina A&T Summer Enrichment Camps](#)
- [Summer Tech Camp - NC STATE and UNC-CH](#)

News from Our School:

More GCS students will learn in-person five days per week starting on Monday, April 19.

The change affects secondary school students with disabilities who receive special education services through an individual education plan or 504 plan and English language learners who are not currently learning in-person five days per week.

The change also affects middle and high school students who currently attend school on a hybrid schedule, with two days of in-person instruction and three days of remote instruction each week.

“Our goal has always been to educate the maximum number of students in person for the greatest amount of time possible while keeping students and staff healthy and safe,” said Superintendent Sharon L. Contreras.

If you have any questions, please call us at 336-819-2100

Helping Academically Gifted Students Manage Stress

Adapted from Simple ABCs for School Stress Management by Dr. Ron Rubenzer

Wow! It’s hard to believe that we have made it to the 4th quarter of the 2020 – 2021 school year; what a unique experience this has been. Your child has adjusted to a lot this year - from virtual learning to the pace of curriculum during a pandemic. Like many students, your child may have experienced some stressful moments. It is the hope of theAG Department that the tips provided in this article will help your child finish this school year strong, confident, and stress-free. The article highlights the ABCs of managing school stress to avoid educational burnout.

Attitude

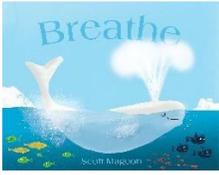


Attitude is everything! For academically gifted students, developing a positive attitude for learning begins with an understanding of the connection between school achievement and lifelong goals. Even our elementary students have goals for the types of experiences they wish to have as they become older. It is important that the academically gifted student understands “their WHY”. What are the reasons they want to excel in school and how are those reasons attached to things, such as:

- A desire to help others
- Hobby/Career interest

When academically gifted students know “their WHY” they can develop a mindset that focuses on developing the skills to achieve goals instead of a strict focus on grades. This type of growth mindset thinking can lead to less stress.

Breathe



As a parent, one way you can help your child reduce stress is to help them practice mindfulness. Learning breathing techniques helps students calm themselves and reduces anxiety and stress. Below are six mindfulness apps that, during the pandemic, announced free student and educator access. Some of the apps may still be available to students for free:

1. [Calm](#)
2. [Headspace](#)
3. [MyLife](#)
4. [Smiling Mind](#)
5. [Dreamykid](#)
6. [Mindful Powers](#)

In addition to these apps, YouTube also has many free [mindfulness playlists](#) that you may wish to review.

Choice



It is important that academically gifted students choose how they will organize their learning and find the support needed for school success. These choices include:

- **Finding peer support or participating in tutoring opportunities:** Academically gifted students need to develop a mindset that acknowledges that it's okay to ask for help or speak with someone to ensure that they understand a concept.
- **Use agenda/calendars to organize learning:** During the end of the school year, many students find themselves participating in extracurricular activities. For this reason, it is strongly suggested that students learn how to use an agenda/calendar to manage the due dates for class assignments as well as their participation in extracurricular events.
- **De-clutter school notes/desk:** Students should recycle papers that are no longer needed and file papers that highlight concepts that they are still mastering. This is also the time to check that your child has all the supplies needed to finish the year strong.