

Fall, 2015

Dear DPS Students & Families of the Thomas Jefferson High School Gifted & Talented Population:

Welcome! Please read this long letter entirely as it contains **important information**. Due to demand, I really need our families to get on board with communication and program protocol so we can maximize the collaborative efficiency, quality and impact of our program. I promise only three really long letters all year - max!

First, **all identified students in DPS must actively maintain a primary email account**. The reason for this is that the majority of our department's communication and documentation is done through **Naviance** and its Family Connections/email interface. **Please visit your Naviance page** through the school website today and update your Personal Profile with the correct and active email address. Detailed instructions may be found on the [HSGT webpage](#). This webpage is another great resource that is constantly updated.

Speaking of resources, there many we are proud to highlight this fall.

1. We are offering a Scholarship Opportunity to take **Latin for approved DPS credit** as an online, advanced elective *beyond* the 8 pd. schedule. New this year, the Office of Student Engagement, Apex Management and GT teamed up to ensure a total of ten scholarships for students who are striving for such a challenge. Interested students should contact me with a brief narrative demonstrating your passion for learning Latin. The Advanced Elective might be a perfect fit for self-directed/paced, passionate students. I will personally serve as the mentor to students completing this year-long course.

2. We are offering **juniors a free financial literacy class** as an online, for fun, GT enrichment and competition (cash and scholarship prizes are awarded). This opportunity is open to the first 40 students to register with TJ's code, NPAGSDY at <http://hrblock.budgetchallenge.com> Keep an eye out for a possible High School Semantics activity this year as well, Legislative Day in January, and much more.

3. The first official district DPS High School Gifted and Talented **Parent Group** has assembled! Joining is easy. Please use Facebook to search the group and request access. After administrative verification, you will be in and can help support and advocate for our students more than before. Please join!

4. Lasy year, Governor Hickenlooper proclaimed *Oct. 20-24 Gifted and Talented Education Week* in Colorado. The Colorado Association of Gifted and Talented Parent Institute is Oct. 19. We hope to have a strong showing of our parent body at this important event. Registration and details may be found on the [CAGT website](#).

5. Just like last year, on-going, one-on-one **consultations for GT, HGT, and twice-exceptional students** are available only by counselor, psychologist, social worker or administrative referral in conjunction with parent and student cooperation. If you were on one-on-one consultations last year and wish to continue, please contact me immediately to set up a new appointment this year. Occasional or one-time personal meetings are available by request via email or phone. BRIAN_WEAVER2@dpsk12.org 720-423-2060.

6. Wednesday **GT Lunch** is a beautiful thing! This year is especially exciting because the TJ Partners provided a classroom grant for us to buy more chess sets, a brilliant new game, and even some pizza money. Even with this, any parents willing to **donate** lunch items from Sam's or Costco to GT Lunch would be greatly appreciated. We have an in-house **chess champion willing to instruct and lead our Chess Team** this year so this is really a crown jewel to covet involvement and participation. There we also enjoy friendship and learning about each others' interests and passions which always leads to great things! Just ask the recipients of Academic Mentorship nominations last year! Also at GT lunch, activities and events will be announced regularly in our ever-dynamic and dimensional school. GT Lunch is also a

great place for Naviance support and usage, general questions, conversation starters, 'loose ends,' and easy fixes.

7. Wednesday **Office Hours**: Students please use these! Officially I will leave these as a drop-in basis for now. If and as demand increases, I may add sign-up and/or appointments.

8. The evening of Oct. 7, there will be a **Town Hall meeting at TJ**. I have been asked to identify 5-6 students who would be willing to volunteer that evening to ensure a smooth, efficient and productive time. Interested students please let me know immediately via email or in person. If this volunteer opportunity does not work for you, please just ask for another opportunity because the GT Office partners with a few extraordinary organizations in providing volunteer opportunities. These partners include Community Resources Inc., the Big Brain Club and Four-Mile Historic Park.

9. Please be on the lookout for a significant **communication in the near future regarding a major community involvement initiative** and our students. I think you will all find it utterly inspiring!

We hope this letter finds everyone well and off to a great start. More communication throughout the year will be in your email, Campus Messenger, the newsletter, and website. We look forward to our fourth year serving our High School communities with leadership, equity, and high impact gifted programming!

Sincerely,

Brian Weaver,

GT Department Specialist to Thomas Jefferson High School

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