

NEWS FROM ACADEMICALLY GIFTED

The Middle School Edition

Hairston Middle School

All of our dreams can come true – if we have the courage to pursue them.

~ *Walt Disney*



IF IT DOESN'T CHALLENGE YOU,
IT DOESN'T CHANGE YOU

2021 Academic All Star Camp (Pending)

Since 2001, each summer the AG Department host a camp for rising 9th grade students (our current 8th grade students). Students are invited to attend based on their 7th grade End-of-Grade test scores. The top 30 students from each middle school receives an invitation to attend the camp. During the camp, students engage in hands-on problem-based learning experiences designed to equip them with the skills needed for honors and advanced placement courses. A key component of the program is the AP Bootcamp, which is taught by current AP teachers and provides students with an insight into what they can expect in an academically rigorous classroom setting.

Participants also prepare for the ACT, which most will take in

their junior year. During the All-Star camp, they take a pre- and post-ACT assessment and receive daily instruction on specific skill sets known to improve ACT performance. At the conclusion of the camp, students can keep their ACT prep materials, which can be used throughout their high school experience to prepare them for the test.

Unfortunately, due to the global pandemic, the AG Department had was forced to cancel the 2020 Academic All Star Camp (AASC). At this time, decisions have not been made regarding the 2021 AASC. We will certainly keep you updated as decisions are made and will make every effort to notify qualifying students in a timely manner so that they can plan accordingly. If we are not able to hold the camp again in 2021, students will still be able to include their eligibility on resumes and for future applications. Eligibility will be based on students' 2019 Grade 6 EOG scores.

[Click here to watch a video highlighting the 2019 Academic All Star Camp](#) or visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7eSKEzy9IEg>.

News from Our School:

Our 2020 AG Parent Meeting will be held virtually from **December 14th – December 18th, 2020**. This meeting will be conducted as a video recorded presentation. Check our school's webpage for more details.

Join us for Social Justice Friday's [Click Here](#) for more information.

Join in on the "7 Days of Holiday Cheer" [Click Here](#) for more information.

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Discussing Racism with Gifted Children

Adapted from "Discussing Racism with Gifted Children: A Primer by Joy Lawson Davis and Jessa Luckey Goudelock, Parenting for High Potential (September 2020)

According to Davis and Goudelock, "Gifted children have the potential to lead the next generation in breaking down the barriers of systemic racism that have historically sought to marginalize communities of color. But without an understanding of racism and bias that currently plagues society, it is impossible for change to occur" (page 10). Through open communication, parents of gifted children can help their child build an understanding of racism and how it damages both society and individuals.

With gifted children, initial conversations about race should focus on embracing differences, which includes concepts such as fairness, empathy, and justice. These conversations should also be reflective of Merriam-Webster's soon to be revised definition of racism, which acknowledges that racism is a prejudice against a person's skin color as well as systems that provide advantages based on skin color. Parents are in the best position for helping gifted children learn more about themselves and their world. Gifted children need to develop their curiosity around race in a manner that allows them to demonstrate respect and empathy. Parents need to prepare for hard questions and discussions around concepts such as colonization, slavery, segregation, redlining, and immigration rights that will allow them to learn with their child as their child develops their own understanding regarding race relations in our nation and the world at large. The resources listed in Figure 1 can help parents embrace these "learn together" moments with their gifted child.

The curiosity of a gifted child is heightened by a strong sensitivity that compels them to be curious about inequities and hypocrisies that they may experience (or witness) in their schools and communities. A parent's willingness to explore hard topics, such as White privilege, paves the way for students to explore solutions for better community with those who are similar as well as with those who are different. In the field of gifted education, these hard conversations will need to also address the underrepresentation of students of color in gifted education and some of the root causes of this underrepresentation. The chart below details some of the national root causes of underrepresentation in gifted education and highlights the equity practices implemented in Guilford County Schools (GCS) to reduce underrepresentation in our district:

Historical Root Cause of Underrepresentation:	Equity Practices in GCS (Middle Grades):
Lack of using universal screening, local norms, or multiple identification measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none">EOG data is reviewed annually, for all students in grades 3 – 7, to determine future AG identification. Students in grades 6 – 8 are eligible for AG identification with achievement scores at or above the 90th ile.
Heavy reliance on verbal ability tests	<ul style="list-style-type: none">At the middle grades level, aptitude data is not included in the AG identification process.
Rigid cut-off scores	<ul style="list-style-type: none">At the middle grades level, the AG service offered is enrollment in accelerated/advanced courses with differentiation provided in the classroom. Since district criteria is used for course enrollment, a student may be enrolled in these courses without AG identification
Reliance on teacher recommendation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The parent, child, or other community stakeholder can submit an AG referral, which results in the review of the student's available achievement data.

The GCS AG Department invites parents to contact us for information on how you can be involved in helping our department continue to focus on underrepresentation in gifted education by serving on the district's Advisory Board, your school's Team for Academically Gifted, and/or active participation in our local PAGE chapter. It is important to help gifted children learn to advocate for systemic change, one of the best ways to do that is for them to see their parents actively involved in the advocacy work as well.

In their article, Davis and Goudelock provide the following closing thoughts, "The sensitivity and compassion that many gifted children possess causes them to be especially vulnerable to social injustices that impact their peers, families, communities, and world. Understanding and responding appropriately to their sensitivities can help gifted children react in positive ways to be a part of the change needed to help all of their peers and to feel that they have contributed positively to problem solving and solution finding. Lastly, the role of the parents is critical to ensure that students have a safe place to express their feelings and participate in the change making process..." (page 12).

Figure 1: Resources for Discussing Racism with Gifted Children:

WEBSITES

- An Educators Guide to This Moment: Resources for Educators, Parents, and Students, <https://spark.adobe.com/page/3p4pM1Tq9aJ5u/>
- Common Sense Media Resources About Race and Racism, www.common Sense Media.org
- Community Violence, www.nctsn.org
- EmbraceRace, www.embrace Race.org
- National Museum of African American History and Culture "Talking About Race," <https://nmaahc.si.edu/learn/talking-about-race>
- Resources for Talking About Race, Racism, and Racialized Violence with Kids, <https://centerracialjustice.org>
- Talking About Racism and Bias: Resources for Parents and Caregivers, <https://childrensatlance.org>
- Talking to Kids about Discrimination, <https://www.apa.org>
- Teaching Tolerance, www.tolerance.org
- The ConsciousKid, www.theconsciouskid.org

ARTICLES & BLOGS

- Affirming Black Lives Without Inducing Trauma, www.tolerance.org
- Becoming Upended: Teaching and Learning about Race and Racism with Young Children and Their Families, www.naeyc.org
- Black Lives Matter, www.angelamnovak.com/post
- Director's Corner: Social Justice and the Gifted Child, (Joy Lawson Davis, Ed.D., 5/25/15) www.sengifted.org/post
- How to Talk to Your White Children About George Floyd, www.ramshackleglam.com
- 100 Race-Conscious Things You Can Say to Your Child to Advance Racial Justice, www.raceconscious.org
- Racism in the Gifted Classroom: Are Our Students Immune? www.nagc.org/blog
- Your Kids Aren't Too Young to Talk About Race: Resource Roundup, www.prettygooddesign.org/blog

YOUTUBE (Search for these titles)

- A Kids Book About Racism, by Jelani Memory
- Animation Series: Something Happened in Our Town
- "Because I'm Latino, I Can't Have Money?": Kids on Race
- How to Talk to Kids About Race
- Not My Idea—A Book About Whiteness

BOOKS FOR ADULTS & YOUNG ADULTS

- Coates, T. N. (2015). *Between the world and me*. One World Publications.
- Daniel Totum, B. (2017). *Why are all the Black kids sitting together in the cafeteria?* Basic Books.
- DiAngelo, R. (2018). *White fragility: Why it's so hard for White people to talk about racism*. Beacon Press.
- Helms, J. E. (2019). *A race is a nice thing to have: A guide to being a White person or understanding the White persons in your life*. Cognella Academic Publishing.
- Higgenbotham, A. (2018). *Not my idea: A book about Whiteness*. Dotir Press.
- Kendi, I. X. (2019). *How to be an antiracist*. One World Publications.

BOOK & MEDIA LISTS FOR CHILDREN & TEENS

- Because Black Lives Matter, a Collection of Anti-Racist Reading Lists, www.teenlibrarianantoolbox.com
- Encouraging Kids of All Colors to be Inclusive and Empathetic, www.embrace Race.org
- List of Books, Films and Podcasts About Racism Is a Start, Not a Panacea, www.npr.org
- Supporting Kids to Think Critically about Racial Inequity, www.embrace Race.org
- These Books Can Help You Explain Racism and Protest to Your Kids, www.nytimes.com
- 31 Children's Books to Support Conversations on Race, Racism and Resistance, www.embrace Race.org

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR Gifted Children

For your convenience, we have provided the link to some of the resources.

Resources for Discussion Racism with Gifted Children

<p>Websites:</p>	<p>An Educators Guide to This Moment Resources for Educators, Parents, and Students: https://spark.adobe.com/page/3p4pM1Tq9aj5u/</p> <p>EmbraceRace: https://www.embracerace.org/</p> <p>Resources for Talking About Race, Racism, and Racialized Violence with Kids https://centerracialjustice.org/</p> <p>National Museum of African American History and Culture “Talking About Race” https://nmaahc.si.edu/learn/talking-about-race</p> <p>Teaching Tolerance: https://www.tolerance.org/</p> <p>The ConsciousKid: https://www.theconsciouskid.org/</p>
<p>Articles & Blogs</p>	<p>American Psychology Association: Talking to Kids about Discrimination https://www.apa.org/topics/kids-discrimination</p> <p>Talking about Racism in America: The Retrospective Voice of a Gifted Black Young Adult https://qrqo.page.link/pJZaf</p> <p>Black Lives Matter https://www.angelamnovak.com/post/black-lives-matter</p> <p>Becoming Upended: Teaching and Learning about Race and Racism with Young Children and Their Families https://www.naeyc.org/resources/pubs/yc/may2018/teaching-learning-race-and-racism</p> <p>100 Race-Conscious Things You Can Say to Your Child to Advance Racial Justice http://www.raceconscious.org/2016/06/100-race-conscious-things-to-say-to-your-child-to-advance-racial-justice/</p> <p>Racism in the Gifted Classroom: Are Our Students Immune? https://www.nagc.org/blog/racism-gifted-classroom-are-our-students-immune</p> <p>Your Kids Aren’t Too Young to Talk About Race: Resource Roundup https://www.prettygooddesign.org/blog/Blog%20Post%20Title%20One-5new4</p>
<p>YouTube</p>	<p>A Kids Book About Racism https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LnaltG5N8nE</p> <p>Animation Series: Something Happened in Our Town https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lcOhOFGcWm8</p> <p>“Because I’m Latino, I Can’t Have Money?”: Kids on Race https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C6xSyRJqle8</p> <p>How to Talk to Kids About Race https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QNEKbVq_ou4</p> <p>Not My Idea – A Book About Whiteness https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VVsqRkpAizY</p>