

February 2015 is Gifted Education Month in Kentucky!

Below are some suggested activities to celebrate giftedness in your school and district. Let us know what you are doing so we can share with others. Contact KAGE if you have any questions and thank you for supporting gifted education in Kentucky.

KENTUCKY ASSOCIATION FOR GIFTED EDUCATION (KAGE)

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STUDENT ACTIVITIES

- Create a video about the importance of gifted education. Post to school and district website. Share with local television stations.
- Write a thank you letter to a teacher who made a real difference in your life.
- Write letters to the editor thanking school board members and/or school council members for their support of gifted education.
- Write your legislators. Urge them to continue supporting Kentucky gifted education.
- Write and pre-record 30-second public service announcements for broadcast on local radio stations.
- Design thought-provoking notebook stickers (instead of bumper stickers). Attach them with clear contact paper.
- Invite members of the board of education and school council to visit your classroom during Gifted Education Month to see developing talents in action.
- Create puppets, props, and script to inform about gifted education. Offer to PTA, Rotary, Lions Club, etc., as a program.
- Write essays on such topics as "Why gifted education is important," "Why I like being a part of our gifted program," etc. Submit the essays to magazines for publication.
- Create and post posters exploring these statements: "Gifted Education is" Or "Giftedness is like...."
- Write articles on gifted education for the school board or district publication or for posting on the website.
- Create and post bulletin boards about Gifted Education Month.
- Draw the ideal gifted classroom. Pretend you are not limited by space or money.
- Write predictions about yourself and for your gifted classmates. Describe where you will be and what you will be doing in the year 2030. How did your gifted classes prepare you for the future? What more could have been done?
- Research a famous gifted people. In costume, depict that person in a vignette sharing interesting anecdotes. Wear the costume as you walk through school/town distributing brochures about services for gifted children, about special Gifted Education Month events, etc.
- Create a fake Facebook page for a famous gifted person (Albert Einstein, etc.) include a profile, friends, and what are some pages that he or she may like.
- Write help wanted ads for creative thinkers, problem solvers, and mentors. Write job descriptions for parents of the gifted, teachers of the gifted, etc.
- Design a button, T-shirt, or flag about developing talents.

TEACHER OR DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

- Arrange for a proclamation to be signed about Gifted Education Month. Contact the mayor's office and/or the judge executive's office to find out procedures and make plans. Turn the signing into a publicity event by inviting students and local dignitaries, contacting the press, taking photos, and submitting articles complete with photos to the local papers and the school district's publicity department.
- Inform your local newspaper, radio, and TV about Gifted Education Month. Ask them to feature what's happening in your district to meet the needs of gifted students.
- Create a hashtag (#) on twitter (i.e. GT success) to have teachers/students/parents/community members tweet a success that is happening in gifted education in their district.
- Email your GT coordinator, building principal, or district administration to share outstanding aspects of gifted education in your district
- Prepare a report of successes of the gifted education services in your school district. Ask to be placed on the March or April board of education agenda and/or school council agenda for presenting the report.
- Set up an interview on a local radio or TV station to discuss gifted issues, to describe the local services for gifted students, to explain how schools identify and encourage gifted students, and/or to describe local and state efforts of KAGE.

Gifted Education Month 2015 suggested activities continued

- Ask local businesses to advertise Gifted Education Month on their marquee or computerized signs.
- Arrange to speak to parent groups (PTA, PTO) and other community groups such as the Lion's Club or other service clubs about the purpose of gifted education or highlight positive aspects of gifted education in your district. Include a slide presentation or videotaped presentation, if appropriate.
- Create a newsletter for parents and community groups describing gifted education in your district. Have information about KAGE and an agenda for Gifted Education Month. If you already do a newsletter, highlight Gifted Education Month activities.
- Hold an open house for parents, administrators, teachers, school board members, school council members, and community leaders. Feature student speeches, skits, demonstrations, etc. Information about KAGE and special student programs such as Super Saturday Programs, Governor Scholar's Program, and Governor's School for the Arts, etc. could also be available.
- Check the public library for current books on gifted or gifted education. Talk with the librarian about purchasing books on the topics; be prepared with a list of suggested books. Make a request to a parent group to purchase a book(s) on gifted or gifted education for the public library.
- Each day of Gifted Education Month, display a quotation by a famous gifted person.
- Prepare crates or folders of materials on various topics of interest to parents of the gifted (e.g., sibling relationships, underachievement, and summer opportunities). Be sure to advertise their availability for check out.
- Write letters to the editor thanking school board members and/or school council members for their support of gifted education.
- Collect questions students and teachers have about gifted students and services. Answer and publish your responses.
- Write your legislators. Urge them to continue supporting Kentucky gifted education.
- Submit articles and pictures about gifted education, gifted students, and KAGE to the local newspaper and/or school paper for each week during Gifted Education Month. Articles might include explaining what Gifted Education Week is, your experience in the gifted program, activities for gifted students, etc.
- Present the superintendent, president of the board of education, and/or building principal(s) with framed certificates of appreciation to hang in their offices or in the central office.
- Write a thank you letter to someone who inspired you to teach gifted students.
- Contact your local library or other community facility to create a display case of projects.
- Teach a multi-week class on a topic or book important to educating gifted children (e.g., *On the Social and Emotional Lives of Gifted Children* by Tracy Cross for parents or *Teaching Strategies in Gifted Education: A Gifted Child Today Reader* by Susan Johnsen and Kames Kendrick). Begin or end the class during Gifted Education Month.
- Plan a workshop about a relevant aspect of gifted education for teachers, administrators, school board members, and school council members.
- Contact the advertising department of the local newspaper in advance about reserving a whole page for a special Gifted Education Month ad. Approach local merchants about purchasing a portion of the page for their own message saluting gifted education.
- Invite members of the board of education and school council to visit your classroom during Gifted Education Month to see developing talents in action.
- Prepare a brochure titled "What is gifted education?" or "This is gifted education in the School District." Distribute to community leaders.
- Conduct a contest for posters that represent some aspect of gifted education. Display posters around school and in local stores. Award prizes, if feasible.
- Conduct a Gifted Education slogan contest. Choose a slogan that describes gifted education in your district during Gifted Education Month. Use the slogan to decorate bulletin boards, classroom doors, newsletters, posters, store windows, etc.
- Prepare a scrapbook focusing on gifted education. Include newspaper clippings about the services provided to gifted students. Let administrators, teachers, and parents check out the scrapbook. Display it in the local public library.
- Invite a panel of gifted graduates to discuss pros and cons of their program experiences. Students, teachers, or parents can be the audience.
- Prepare "Question of the Day" for each day of Gifted Education Month. Display the questions so all students may participate by doing research and handing in their answers. If feasible, offer prizes.