Monday Morning Sessions

10:20am - 12:20am

Genius Hour: Utilizing Passion Projects to Make Learning Meaningful

What happens when we stop asking gifted learners to complete our ideas and give them the tools to pursue their own? Genius Hour turns curiosity and interest into meaningful learning through the 6 Ps — Passion, Plan, Pitch, Project, Product, and Presentation. Explore how to help learners discover meaningful topics, develop questions, create a plan, navigate productive struggle, and turn their ideas into authentic products and presentations. You'll experience practical strategies for facilitating passion projects without having to manage 25 completely different lesson plans. Come ready to rethink student choice, nurture curiosity, and discover how Genius Hour can move learners from "What am I supposed to do?" to "Can I keep working on this?"

Andi McNair, Education Author and Consultant

Infinite Campus Resources

This session will address tips and tricks using IC. GT Coordinators will review end-of-the-year reporting, State Published AdHoc reports, and various other types of reports. Attendees should bring their laptops, and they will have the 2nd hour to practice running reports or asking questions about Infinite Campus.

Tammy Tomes, Bullitt County Public Schools

Increasing Opportunities to Learn for Artistically Gifted Students through Differentiated Instruction

Differentiating instruction increases opportunities to learn and enhances equity for gifted visual and performing artists in underserved areas with limited access to arts education. This session explores the Facets Model, arts standards, and technology applications to differentiate instruction for gifted students with artistic interests in regular education and performing arts classrooms. Learn how these tools can build vibrant experiences to nurture talents and advance learning for high-ability artists.

Elizabeth Edwards, EdD, Middlesboro Independent Schools
Jeanne Lee, Harlan County Schools

The Creativity Remix: Steal It. Flip It. Teach It

What if creativity didn't require one more thing to teach, but simply a new way to teach what you already do? In this fun, interactive session, participants will experience how familiar elements of pop culture can be "stolen," remixed, and transformed into opportunities for meaningful creative thinking. Through hands-on challenges, unexpected connections, and ready-to-use strategies, you'll discover a simple approach for bringing fresh energy to the content you already teach. Come ready to think, create, laugh, and leave with practical ideas you can use across grade levels and content areas.

Justin Mitchell, Simpson County Schools

Update on the Basics of Gifted Education and Talent Development

New to gifted education or wanting an update? As a parent, classroom teacher, school or district administrator, what do I need to know to be up to date with gifted education and talent development in Kentucky? This session will get participants up to speed on the law, regulations, and best practices to be sure that our children and young people have the opportunities needed to thrive in school and prepare for success beyond K-12 school.

Julia Link Roberts, EdD, The Center for Gifted Studies, WKU

Monday Afternoon Sessions

1:45pm-3:45pm

Purpose Through Problems: How Community Partnerships Transform Gifted PBL Experiences

This session will explore how authentic problems and community partnerships can transform project-based learning for gifted students from "harder work" into meaningful challenge. Participants will examine a simple framework for designing purpose-driven learning experiences that connect gifted learners' strengths and interests to real-world needs. Through examples, discussion, and hands-on design, participants will begin developing a PBL experience that gives students an opportunity to solve a problem, engage with authentic partners, and make an impact beyond the classroom.

Sheri Rhodes, Jefferson County Public Schools

Social and Emotional Characteristics and Needs of Gifted and Twice-Exceptional Learners

This session will focus on the social and emotional development of gifted youth. Their asynchronous or uneven pattern of development and other characteristics such as sensitivity, intensity, and perfectionism can create needs, leading to difficulty with adjustment. Case examples will be used to illustrate concerns and explore strategies to enhance motivation, develop grit, and foster resilience.

Ed Amend, PsyD, The Amend Group

How to Use AI to Foster Big Dreams for Kentucky's Bright Minds

AI continues to pose huge benefits and challenges for society, particularly in education. How can we leverage AI's power to develop big ideas while not growing to be reliant on the technology and risk losing critical thinking skills? This session will discuss this topic and ideas for using AI in the classroom to build big dreams in your classroom!

Tyler Clark, EdD, The Center for Gifted Studies, WKU
Janet Tassell, PhD, Western Kentucky University
Madison Staton, The Center for Gifted Studies, WKU

Questioning Strategies across Elementary Content Areas

"The art and science of asking questions is the source of all knowledge." This quote attributed to author, Thomas Berger, addresses the heart of teaching. Teachers must be masters at crafting questions for students, as well as masters at teaching students to ask their own. In this workshop, we'll focus on questionings strategies to address the need for rigor in elementary classrooms, particularly to meet the needs of gifted learners. Participants will be able to generate rigorous questions related to their content areas for students to facilitate student learning, evaluate questions according to their rigor, and facilitate students' asking high-level questions as they search for knowledge.

Lynette Breedlove, PhD, Quest Academy

Let's Chat: Ask Me Anything with Andi

Join me for a lively, anything-goes Q&A where curiosity leads the way and no question is too big, too small, or too "I've been wondering this for a while but haven't asked it out loud yet." This is your space to ask about Giftedness, Genius Hour, Gifted Onboarding, Designing for Depth, or anything in between. Whether you're

wrestling with a classroom challenge, exploring how to better support gifted learners, or wondering how to create more meaningful learning experiences, bring it. Think of this as a conversation, not a presentation—part idea lab, part problem-solving session, and part "what if we tried this?" space. Come with your questions, wonderings, and even the things that just aren't working. Leave with new perspectives, practical ideas, and hopefully a few "I'm definitely trying that tomorrow" moments.
Andi McNair, Education Author and Consultant

Creating and Maintaining Effective Gifted Programming

Analyze and evaluate your district's GT Program to create an efficient workflow for identification and effectively service gifted and potentially gifted learners through KyMTSS. Establish effective gifted programming through the implementation of the Gifted Regulations, NAGC Programming Standards, and Infinite Campus. Templates for identification data, Google forms for checklists and surveys, and ideas for differentiation in the general education classrooms along with unit plans will be available to participants.
Toddie Adams, PhD, KAGE Member
Emily Green, Marshall County Schools