



Gifted Education Advocacy, Networking, & Professional Development ... 21st Century Style

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Why is gifted education
not equitably valued or
supported?

What are the biggest
challenges facing
modern gifted
educators?

What can we DO
about these issues?

Goals of Today's Presentation

1. Identify various technologies and their uses to promote advocacy for gifted students/services.
2. Gain ideas for using social media tools to facilitate networking among gifted educators.
3. Locate and utilize online professional development opportunities for gifted educators.
4. Generate ideas for using technology to promote advocacy, communication/collaboration, and learning among gifted students and teachers.

21st Century Tools for Advocacy, Communication, & Collaboration

- Blogs
- Videos
- Social Media
 - Twitter
 - Facebook
- Online PD Tools



Advocacy Efforts

“The gifted kids will be fine... They don’t need any extra attention.”

Top 10 Myths About Gifted Kids

Video

Why do our gifted students need advocacy?

- Most people hold myths and misconceptions about giftedness.
 - Gifted kids are smart “across the board.”
 - Gifted kids have a healthy self-concept.
 - Gifted kids/teachers think they’re better than everyone else.
 - Gifted teachers just do fun stuff (“the fluff down the hall”).
- We *know* our kids are very different, and their exceptional needs require specialized services, beyond the regular classroom.
 - Intellectual and academic needs
 - Social/emotional needs
 - Intense interests

“I have been impressed with the urgency of doing. Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Being willing is not enough; we must do.”

Leonardo Da Vinci

Class Blog

- Purpose:
 - Showcase all of the wonderful happenings in your class (serves as a digital portfolio of student work).
 - Post announcements and reminders.
 - Post resources and links to encourage future exploration.
 - Share your knowledge and research on various issues relevant to gifted students' needs and interventions.
- Targeted Audience:
 - Parents and students
 - Administrators
 - General ed. colleagues
 - Community and beyond (depending on privacy settings)

MS Gifted Teacher All-Star Blogger

Elle Deyamport, Ed.S., Hattiesburg Public Schools

Class Blog: <http://reachrocketeers.blogspot.com/>

Teacher/Personal Blog:

<http://languagejourneys.blogspot.com/>

- Check out her lists:
 - Gifted Ed. Teaching & Advocacy Blogs
 - Gifted Ed. Resources for Teachers & Families



A few of my favorite gifted ed blogs...

- [Byrdseed Gifted](#)
- [Venspired](#)
- [Crushing Tall Poppies](#)

Getting Started With Blogging

1. Check your district's policies; gain administrative approval. Provide support/evidence of success!
2. Review/create a form to gain permission from students' parents for posting photos.
3. Create a free account at Blogger.com or a paid account at Edublogs.org.
4. Customize your blog layout and settings.
5. Write your first post!

Comparison of Blog Services



Blogger (Google)

- FREE
- Clean and colorful templates; allow for customization
- Very simple to use
- Can create separate blogs for students and link to main blog



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- FREE (some features); Pro version is \$7.95/mo. or \$39.95/yr.
 - Education-oriented templates; allow for customization
 - Mild learning curve
 - Pro version allows for integrated student accounts
 - Customer service

Videos

- Purpose:
 - Give students an authentic audience for presentation.
 - Provides interesting content for your class blog.
 - Allows students to participate in advocacy efforts.
- Targeted Audience:
 - Parents
 - Administrators and general ed. colleagues
 - Community and beyond (depending on privacy settings)

Sample Videos Featuring Gifted Students

- [Gifted Education Matters!](#)
 - Winner in AAGC student video contest
- [On Being Gifted: Common Questions & Misconceptions](#)
 - By Crushing Tall Poppies blog
- [List of all AAGC Video Contest Winners](#)
- [What Does It Mean To Be Gifted and Talented?](#)
 - By TX Association for the Gifted & Talented
- [Outside the Box Gifted Learners](#)
 - About twice-exceptional students by the IAGC

How to Create a Video

Materials Needed:

- Video/digital camera, smart phone/iPod Touch, or web cam
- Video editing software: MS MovieMaker, Apple iMovie, Animoto

1. Create a script; rehearse.
2. Shoot your video footage.
3. Upload footage to computer; edit using software program (Lots of great video tutorials online!)
4. Download video into a file format.
5. To share, create a free account and upload to YouTube or Vimeo.

Get Political

- Why use social media to contact your local and state elected officials?
 - Twitter allows for quicker contact than other forms of communication and can make a powerful impact.
 - Twitter is less saturated than email and can prompt a collaborative effort.
- What to say?
 - Request financial support for gifted ed - be specific!
 - Re-tweet others' content - quotes, links, news articles.
 - Share links to your blogs, videos, or other online content.
 - Share quotes from students and parents.
 - Set dates for “tweet blasts” - Involve parents and teachers.

Virtual Networking & PD

What keeps you from attending conferences?

What other methods do you use for PD?

Use Twitter to Build Your PLN



[Link to NAGC Twitter Presentation](#)

Online Opportunities Offered by Professional Organizations

- [National Association for Gifted Children \(NAGC\)](#)
 - Numerous online publications/ resources
 - Free webinars for members
 - Networks with own newsletters/websites/blogs
 - Advocacy/legislative updates
- [Mississippi Association for Gifted Children \(MAGC\)](#)
 - Website
 - Facebook group
- [Alabama Association for Gifted Children \(AAGC\)](#)
 - Website
 - Facebook group
 - Twitter account
- [Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted \(SENG\)](#)
 - Extensive resource library (articles + media)
 - “Senginars” (purchase from online store)
 - Parent online support groups





- [Link to TED Education Talks](#)
 - 5-20 minute inspiring talks about current issues and education reform
 - Favorite education speakers:
 - Sir Ken Robinson
 - Rita Pierson
- [Top 20 TED Talks](#) (across fields)
- [Ted-Ed](#) - Create/share lessons based on TED or YouTube videos

Google Apps

- Docs/Drive - Compose/share collaborative documents.
- Forms - part of Docs, allows you to create simple surveys, with responses entered into a spreadsheet.
- Sites - Create collaborative websites (wikis).
- Google+ - Google's social media product
 - Hangout feature allows for video conferencing with multiple users.

Your Turn!

- What ideas do you have for...
 - Advocacy efforts
 - Networking with other gifted educators
 - Professional development
- If MUW offered online PD sessions for gifted educators and/or parents, what topics would you like to see featured?