Welcome back to a new school year! We are excited about the changes happening at the ALSDE. One of the biggest changes is that the state education budget has funding for gifted again. This is a major development during this period of budget constraints. The leadership of AAGC rallied teachers and parents to help the state legislature understand the importance of funding gifted education programs. However, this funding is less than the 2007-2008 school year. We hope this amount will increase annually until programs are fully funded. A memo was sent to superintendents and special education/gifted coordinators with guidelines regarding how funds may be expended. Don’t forget to thank your local legislatures for the State Senate and State House and let them know what this means to your students. Invite them to visit your classrooms. For more information please visit the AAGC web site.

Dr. Bice has a long term plan for education in Alabama called the 2020 Plan. When he presents the plan to various groups around the state he ALWAYS mentions the standardized test scores of high-end learners and gifted students have regressed to the mean. In other words, he wants scores of gifted students to stop decreasing and start increasing through challenging, rigorous curriculum and instruction. This means gifted students can learn something new every day! The new Alabama Course of Study Standards for Math and Language Arts that include common core standards promise to be more rigorous for all students, too!

This will be an exciting year for gifted education!

DEADLINES & UPDATES

**GIFTED CHILD COUNT**

**GIFTED IDENTIFIED SYSTEMS:** When working on your Child Count, please remember that gifted children DO count. Rumors started last year that gifted specialists and coordinators did not have to worry about their gifted numbers. That is a myth! We do have a Maintenance of Identity for gifted students. Therefore, any student identified gifted in Grades K-12 will have their status marked as active and will be counted on Child Count. While funding is not 100% dependent on the gifted numbers, these numbers are used to monitor disproportionality. Remember that Child Count data is public data, too.

**ENRICHMENT IDENTIFIED SYSTEMS:** If you have gifted identified students, they must be active in STISETS to count towards Child Count. It is critical to maintain the gifted identify of these students. Enrichment Child Count will be collected via e-mail. Due dates will be sent in the Enrichment Child Count e-mail at the end of September.

**GIFTED REFERRAL TRACKING LOG**

The Gifted Referral Tracking Log from STISETS is due no later than October 19, 2012. Tracking log dates that must be manually entered are

**Start Date:** October 2, 2011
**End Date:** October 1, 2012

Before coordinators submit this report through the State Report Desktop of STISETS, review your report for accuracy. If data is missing, then forms have not been completed accurately.
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

AUGUST 13, 2012:
TORRANCE TEST FOR CREATIVE THINKING TRAINING

The training will take place in the Auditorium located on the Plaza level of the Gordon Persons Building. Registration (sign-in) starts at 8:00 AM with the training beginning promptly at 8:30am. Don’t forget to register in STI-PD. Use the PD # SESGift0001

Parking and Walking Directions to the Gordon Persons Building:
The official address of the Gordon Persons Building is 50 North Ripley, Montgomery, AL. Once you arrive at the North Ripley address, drive an additional block to the back of the building at the intersection of North Jackson and Monroe Streets. This is where you will enter the building after parking your car.

Parking options:
- Free parking is available in the Crampton Bowl
  - From the light at the intersection of North Jackson and Monroe Streets, drive an additional block east on Monroe to the corner of Hilliard and Monroe. Monroe will dead end at the Crampton Bowl. Parking there is at a premium, so the earlier you arrive, the better the parking spot. Wear comfortable shoes and bring an umbrella for the trek up the hill to the Gordon Persons Building.
- You may also park at the State House Hotel for a $3 fee.
  - The State House Hotel is across the street diagonally from Gordon Persons Building entrance at the intersection of North Jackson and Monroe Streets.
  - To park at the State House Hotel, go to the hotel office to purchase a parking pass. Parking in this lot is on a first-come, first-served basis, except for a few reserved spaces.

After entering the building, follow the Torrance Training signs to the auditorium.

Directions to the auditorium:
- Enter the building on the corner of North Jackson and Monroe Streets. (You will be on the second floor.)
- Walk straight ahead to the rotunda, going through two sets of double doors, towards Elevators A & B.
- From the rotunda, the elevator down to the Plaza level (P).
- Bear to the right. Go through the double doors, walk to the bottom of the ramp, and go through another set of double doors on the right.
- The auditorium is straight ahead.

If you get lost at any point, call Nancy Johnson at 256-658-6008 or Shirley Farrell at 334-828-9121. We will guide you in or send out a rescue squad. 😊

AUGUST – SEPTEMBER:
GIFTED REGIONAL TRAININGS

The two-day trainings are back. On the first day of training we will cover Gifted Referral and Eligibility Processes, including Second Grade Child Find Activities, and Mining the Data in the morning and writing concept-based curriculum in the afternoon. On the second day of training we will cover bullying of and by gifted students in the morning and consultative services through partnerships as part of RtI. Register in STI-PD using the PD # SESGift0002

AUGUST 22-23, 2012: Loxley Satellite Office for Baldwin Public Schools
AUGUST 28-29, 2012: Lincoln Center, Birmingham City Schools
AUGUST 30-31, 2012: Marshall County Technical Center, Guntersville, AL
SEPTEMBER 4-5, 2012: Bellinger Hill, Montgomery Public Schools
SEPTEMBER 6-7, 2012: Enterprise City Schools Service Center
SEPTEMBER 11-12, 2012: Sprayberry Education Center, Northport, AL
SEPTEMBER 17-18, 2012: UNA East Campus, Florence, AL

SEPTEMBER 10 – NOVEMBER 12, 2012:
WRITING CONCEPT-BASED CURRICULUM COURSE

The Moodle course is now in its third term. This course walks you through writing a concept-based curriculum unit in ten weeks. Units may be written individually or with a partner. Guidance and feedback are provided throughout the course. Feedback will be given on final unit submitted. These units will eventually be uploaded to the ALEX Gifted web page, creating a library of high-quality units for all teachers to access.

To register for the course in STI-PD, search for PD number SESGift0003
To access the course go to http://atim.cc/course/view.php?id=60. Create an account if you do not already have one. The enrollment key is cbcw.
SEPTEMBER 26-27, 2012 (PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS on 25):
ALABAMA ASSOCIATION FOR GIFTED CHILDREN
ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The AAGC conference, “The Many Faces of Gifted,” is scheduled at the McWane Center on September 27-28 with pre-conference hands-on workshops on Wednesday, September 26, 2012. Dr. David Lohman, author of the Cognitive Abilities test (CogAT) is the keynote speaker on Thursday and Dr. Sylvia Rimm is the keynote speaker on Friday. I was just notified that Dr. Bice will speak on Friday morning before the keynote, too. There will be a parent strand, so encourage your parents to attend the conference! For registration information regarding the pre-conference or conference, please go to the AAGC Website.

For the out of town guest needing accommodations, The Tutwiler (a Hampton Inn hotel) has saved us a block of rooms at a discount. Contact them at 205.322.2100 or go to this link for reservations. Deadline to book a room at the discounted rate is September 4, 2012. The Tutwiler is within walking distance of McWane Science Center.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES
SEEA Environmental Education Grants

The Southeast Environmental Education Alliance (SEEA) would like to invite you to submit a proposal for their 2012 grants. These grants are made possible through a regional grant to SEEA provided by EPA.
WHAT: Grants of up to $5,000 for environmental education projects
WHEN: Deadline is November 1, 2012
HOW: Click HERE to visit http://www.eeaa.us and download the Request for Proposals.
Click HERE to download the application.

CONTESTS & OTHER REAL-WORLD AUDIENCES
GIFTED STUDENT VIDEO CONTEST (AAGC)

It’s back! AAGC’s second annual contest is out and a new “group” category has been added! Click here to download the contest packet and entry form. To enter the contest, students need to create a video that is 2 minutes or less that promotes the theme, Alabama’s Future: Invest in Gifted Education. In addition to the video, students must complete and submit answers to reflective questions.

Video Guidelines:
• The format should be in the form of a video and uploaded to the internet via sites such as Youtube, Schooltube, etc. Photo videos will also be accepted in forms such as animoto.com, smilebox.com, etc.
• Be sure to have someone test your video from another computer before submitting your URL for your video.
• Videos will be judged using the AAGC Video Rubric.
• Only videos submitted from a gifted teacher will be accepted. (If a student is homeschooled and the parent is a member of AAGC, they may submit for their child.)

Categories: individual or group
• Age brackets: Individual 3rd grade, 4th grade, 5th grade, 6th – 8th grades, 9th-12th grades
• Group brackets: 3rd – 5th grades, 6th – 8th grades, 9th – 12th grades

Prizes: Teacher (for group prizes)
1st place prize: Flip camera for the class
2nd place prize: $50 VISA gift card for class
Students (individual only)
1st place prize: $50 Visa gift card
2nd place prize: $25.00 Visa gift card

• Contest is open to all gifted students in grades 3 through 12.
• Students must reside in the state of Alabama.
• Gifted teacher must be a member of AAGC.
• Children and students of AAGC board members and judges are not eligible to participate.
All winners will have their products posted on the AAGC website (http://alabamagifted.org)

By submitting your video for consideration in the Contest, you grant AAGC a royalty-free and irrevocable right to reproduce, publish, display, broadcast, stream or otherwise use your product in whole or in part, in any media including the internet.

There are no fees associated with this contest.

GREEN RIBBON SCHOOLS AWARD  
http://alex.state.al.us/grs.html

Many gifted specialists use environmental education curriculum in their pull-out programs. The U.S. Department of Education developed this award in 2012 to recognize schools taking a comprehensive approach to greening their school, which incorporates environmental learning with improving environmental and health impacts. Two Alabama schools were awarded the 2012 Green Ribbon Schools Award in April of 2012, Munford Elementary Schools and Winterboro High School. Becoming a U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School is a two-step process. The first step is to complete and submit the application form to the ALSDE no later than December 21, 2012. The Alabama Green Ribbon Schools Advisory Committee will review the applications to select up to three public schools and one private school with exemplary green schools practices. The second step of the process requires the ALSDE nomination packets with the selected applications be reviewed by the U.S. Department of Education. Selection will be based on documentation of the applicant's high achievement in the three Pillars:

Pillar I: Reduce environmental impact and costs.
Pillar II: Improve the health and wellness of students and staff.
Pillar III: Provide effective environmental and sustainability education, incorporating STEM, civic skills and green career pathways.

For more information or an application, click here.

RESOURCES

Infographics LiveBinder  
http://tinyurl.com/99mtoaa

We have developed a Livebinder to help you teach students to develop their own infographics. What is an infographic, you ask? It is information, data, numbers, charts, graphs, and pictures combined to tell a story. This is a great product for your visual-spatial learners. What could be typed into a ten page essay now fits onto a one page poster. The LiveBinder has sections for what is an infographic, creating them, research tools, development tools, infographic templates, and infographic examples. As with any Internet link, teachers must preview them before using with students! Many of these are for the business world or for adults.

CONCEPT-BASED CURRICULUM

Send us topics for units that we can discuss and provide examples of Essential Understandings, Essential Questions, Scaffolded Questions, and Instructional Activities. Next month we will feature one of the topics.

FIELD EXPERIENCES

We want to share your favorite field trip sites. Please send us your favorite locations, including virtual sites, and how you embed them into your Concept-Based Curriculum.