

Attention...Parents and Teachers of Gifted Children! Join us for a

# Day at the Capitol in Support of Gifted Education

Tuesday, January 21, 2020

8:30-12:00

Capitol Rotunda-Exhibit Area D



On Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020, the Mississippi Association for Gifted Children will sponsor a “Day at the Capitol”. Let’s be a presence in the Capitol to share what gifted education means to the future of Mississippi. Bring your students and we’ll fill the Rotunda with the best representatives of gifted education we have...our students and their parents!

If you would like to schedule a tour of the Capitol for your students, please call them right away! The phone number is 601-359-3115. See the following site for procedures and guidelines:

<http://www.legislature.ms.gov/Documents/RevisedTourGuidelines.pdf>

MAGC’s exhibit area in the Rotunda is Exhibit Area D. We will be there from 8:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m., meeting with our legislators, sharing information about gifted education, watching our lawmakers in action, and taking tours of the Capitol.

\*\*\*Be sure that students and parents refer to their program as the **Gifted Education Program**. We have been told that it causes confusion when we say Discovery, Quest, Spotlight, or another name by which the gifted program is known in your district.

Remember to refer to your program as the **GIFTED EDUCATION PROGRAM**.

## Hints for Teachers and Parents...

- Teachers, contact Carol Paola ([cwp1gab@aol.com](mailto:cwp1gab@aol.com)) or Terry Gressett, MAGC President, ([magc.terry.gressett@gmail.com](mailto:magc.terry.gressett@gmail.com)) to let us know that you and/or your parents will participate in this Day at the Capitol. This is not required, but we like to know that your students are coming.
- Be prepared (or prepare your students) to speak with the legislators. (See the suggestions below)
- Make contact with your legislators during December or January to let them know you will be at the Capitol on January 21<sup>st</sup>. Suggestion: Invite your Representative and Senator to visit your classroom for an interview before our day at the Capitol. The legislators meet in Jackson all through the year, but often are at home on Mondays and Fridays.
- Arrive at the Capitol by 9:30. MAGC's space will be on the ground floor in the Rotunda in exhibit space "D" as you pass through the security station. If you take pictures of your group, please send them to us to be posted on the MAGC website. (Be sure all students pictured have permission for pictures to be posted.)
- Let your legislators know you have arrived by signing in with the Capitol receptionist. The desk is directly under the staircase. If you let your legislators know you are there, they will come to see you in the Rotunda.
- When speaking to the legislators, remember to...
  1. Introduce yourself and mention the school district you represent;
  2. Thank the legislators for their past support of gifted education;
  3. Tell why the **"gifted education program"** is important in preparing students to be creative thinkers and problem-solvers for Mississippi's future;
  4. Mention that you support full funding for education and that gifted education is included in that funding; and
  5. Request your legislators' continued support.

- If the legislature is in session, go to the third floor and observe from the gallery. If your legislators know you are there, they will recognize you from the floor of the House or Senate. Space is limited, so do not plan to stay very long. Also, warn students that they must be quiet in the gallery or they will be asked to leave.
- When you leave, gather your things and go quietly.
- After your visit, follow-up with your legislators to let them know you appreciated the opportunity to speak with them at the Capitol.
- Remember to make frequent contact with your legislators through letters and e-mails throughout the course of the year.
- Invite them to visit your classroom regularly, not just during the legislative session which lasts from January through March/April.
- The best way to build support for gifted education is to develop working relationships with your elected officials so they can see gifted education in action.



We hope to see you at the Capitol on  
Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020!

If you have questions, don't hesitate to contact me!

Carol Paola, Executive Director

[Cwp1gab@aol.com](mailto:Cwp1gab@aol.com)

228-860-1763

## **Gifted Education in Mississippi**

Mississippi has a mandate to serve intellectually gifted students in grades 2-6. In addition, school districts are permitted to serve intellectually gifted students in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades and in other areas of gifted eligibility (creatively gifted, artistically gifted, and academically) in “permissive programming” at the discretion and expense of the school districts.

Gifted education funding falls under the Mississippi Adequate Education Program (MAEP). Currently it is lumped in with the funding for special education and vocational education to be used at the discretion of the school districts.

For additional information about gifted education in Mississippi, visit the Mississippi Department of Education website at [www.mde.k12.ms.us](http://www.mde.k12.ms.us).

For more information about advocating for gifted education in Mississippi, visit the website of the Mississippi Association for Gifted Children at [www.magcgifted.org](http://www.magcgifted.org)