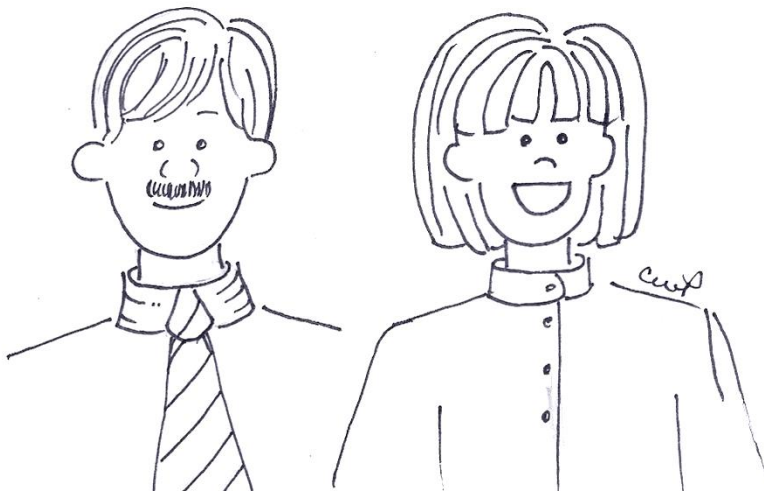


Attention...Parents and Teachers of Gifted Children! Join us for a



Day at the Capitol in Support of Gifted Education

Thursday, February 2, 2017
9:00-2:00
Capitol Rotunda

On Thursday, February 2nd, 2017, 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, our students and their parents!

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

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

This year, we were unable to get a reserved section of the rotunda until March, so we are going to be a presence without a display on Thursday, February 2nd, 2017. We will be there from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. meeting with our legislators and taking tours of the Capitol.

Also, we are making plans with the help of one of our legislators to meet with members of the House Education Committee. We will send out a notice of the time when it is confirmed.

***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 it as the **GIFTED EDUCATION PROGRAM**.

Teachers...

- Contact Carol Paola (cwp1gab@aol.com) or Michael Cox, MAGC President, (hcsdgifted@hotmail.com) that you and/or your parents will participate in this Day at the Capitol. This is not required. We'd like to know to watch for you.
- Be prepared (or prepare your students) to speak with the legislators.
- Make contact with your legislators before the end of January to let them know you will be at the Capitol on February 2nd. Suggestion: Invite your Representative and Senator to visit your classroom for an interview. They are often at home on Fridays.
- Arrive at the Capitol by 9:30. We will be on the ground floor in the Rotunda as you pass through the security station. We will want to get pictures of your group to post on the MAGC website. (Please be sure all students to be pictured have permission for pictures to be posted.)
- Let your legislators know you have arrived by signing in with the Capitol receptionist on the second level. The desk is directly across from 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 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 the Mississippi Adequate Education Program (MAEP) 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. 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
Thursday, February 2, 2017!**

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

Carol Paola, Executive Director

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 7th and 8th 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.

For more information about advocating for gifted education in Mississippi, visit the website of the Mississippi Association for Gifted Children at www.magcgifted.org