**G/T Parent Academy Meeting on Thursday, 10/8/2013**

The meeting started at ~7:04 PM  
   
Stephanie Coakley announced the next meeting, to be held on Thursday, 10/15/2013 at Howard High School from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM: "The Immeasurable Value of Family Involvement: Nurturing High Potential in Culturally Diverse Learners" featuring Dr. Joy Lawson Davis.   
  
Mrs. Coakley spoke about the G/T Advisory committee. It is about 12 yrs old. The G/T Parent Academy meets ~3-4 times per year. They requested parent volunteers for:

* G/T Parent Representatives
* G/T Parent Academies
* G/T Educator Recognition Program and Recognition Night

They have been soliciting parent volunteers for about 2 yrs.  
The G/T Legislative Committee follows development of laws at federal, state and local levels to influence and assess the impact of these laws at the local level.  
A G/T Technology Committee will be set up to help remodel and maintain the G/T website, and increase G/T program outreach on social media.  
My notes and memory are unclear here, but there was some discussion about determining Common Core's impact on Elementary, Middle and High School curriculum, and possibly parent assistance in these areas(?)  
Parent volunteers can help expand the G/T Program's presence and visibility in the community, for example by being a representative at Board of Education meetings (attend 1 or 2, not all), attend Coffee and Conversation(? I'm not sure what that is), advocate for children, form lines of communication with G/T Resource Teachers.  
To sign up to be a Parent Representative, sign up at the given website link and fill out the form.  
   
Sara Seifter talked about the ways to find out about the G/T Program:

* HCPSS News
* HCPSS G/T Program News
* G/T Resource Teachers
* G/T Parent Representatives
* G/T Program website ([www.hcpss.org/academics/gt](https://mail.hcpss.org/owa/redir.aspx?C=8b2c46de1ae3471d8e17907ad59e62dc&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.hcpss.org%2facademics%2fgt" \t "_blank))

Mrs. Barbagallo discussed the G/T Program philosophy drawing from 2 different definitions of giftedness: one from academia(? unsure) and one established by the state of MD.  
   
At the Elementary level, grades 1-5 present Curriculum Extension Units (CEUs), and grades 4 and 5 present G/T Math class. Examples of CEUs in grade 5 are Politics of Persuasion, Ocean Systems and Leadership.  
   
Several students from Thunder Hill Elementary discussed their experiences in CEUs, which included Paper Airplanes, Rube Goldberg Challenge, Safe Racers, Our Place in Space, Ancient Civilizations and others.  
   
The G/T Program offers "talent development services". At the Elementary and Middle School level, these consist of G/T Instructional Seminars (Elementary examples: Chesapeake Bay, Zam's Quest, Green Schools, Engineering Challenge, Challenge Book Club, Stock Market Game. Middle School examples: TV Production, Debate, Book Club, Film Production, Robotics, Cryptology). At the High School level, these consist of G/T Research. All these activities are based on student interest.  
   
Middle School students gave presentations about their experiences in the Writer's Guild, Debate, News Team, Leadership Outlook, Book Club, National History Day, and a research investigation of phantom electrical loads.  
   
A High School student discussed his experiences in Independent Research - mostly having to do with computing.  
   
The G/T Program offers extended day/year and summer institutes for talent development.  
   
[Note: Most of the G/T Program service offerings for Elementary, Middle and High School levels are further detailed in the handout presented at the meeting. I have a copy.]  
   
At about 7:50 PM, Penny Zimringer (sp?) told the meeting attendees that breakout rooms for Elementary, Middle and High School levels would host the remainder of the evening's discussions and the meeting divided accordingly.  
   
Parents asked questions during the Elementary breakout session. The gists of the discussions are below.  
   
Are students admitted to CEUs by nomination only? Yes.  
Seminars are open to all and are based on student interest. Programs start in Kindergarten. Research Investigations are available at the Elementary level, also, and are not based on selection. ~2-3 CEUs are held in each grade during the school year. Selection is ongoing during the school year - talk to the G/T Resource teacher about times.  
   
The G/T math admission test is administered during grades 3 & 5 only. During grade 4, other selection criteria are used. There are not a limited number of seats for students in G/T Math.  
   
The overall percentage of students in grades 4 & 5 enrolled in G/T Math is ~20% with some variation by school.  
   
One attendee noted that many questions addressed student selection for G/T activities and asked if the same information given in live answers was available at the website. Answer: Yes.  
   
The slideshow presented during the evening's presentation will be available at the website in ~2 weeks.  
   
How does "talent spotting" work with shy children? Assessment of follow-up writing, diagramming, drawing, daily performance help compensate for shyness.  
   
What math test feedback can be given to parents? Subtest results/scores.  
   
Phone numbers for the Elementary G/T coordinators:

* Penny Zimringer (sp?): 410-313-6670
* Katie Barbagallo (sp?): 410-313-6671

The meeting ended at ~8:30 PM