Welcome..and Tonight’s Panelists

- Tracy Ford Inman, Ed.D.
- Ellen Honeck, Ph.D.
- Jessica Koehler, Ph.D.
- Jessica LaFollette, Ph.D.
Definitions, Differences & Dilemmas

Ellen Honeck, Ph.D.
honecks@comcast.net
The Reality

- Remote learning from Spring 2019

- Where we are now
  - COVID-19 cases rising
  - No federal or state level guidance
  - American Academy of Pediatrics guidance*
  - School districts have multiple options
    - Plans approved by local health departments
    - Created with changing guidance

Into the Unknown

- Confused about the options and uncertainty the school year brings
- Don’t want a repeat of the spring
- Concerned about health
Typical Educational Options

- In person—Brick and mortar
- Hybrid (Blended)—Combination of in person and online
- Homeschool
Online Educational Options

Online options:
• Full-time private and public K-12 schools
• Personalized learning programs
• Enrichment classes
Emerging Options due to Pandemic

- Pandemic Pods
- Microschools
- Tutors
  - “Zooters”—(Zoom tutors)

www.today.com/parents/parents-create-micro-schools-pandemic-pods-school-year-t187484 and
Weighing the Options

Curriculum Design*

By Others

*Curriculum design: Each state has modified standards for Common Core, offering parents a sense of outcomes for each child at each grade level.

Curriculum Design

By Family
Weighing the Options

Outside the Home

Inside the Home
Weighing the Options

Synchronous Interactions

Asynchronous Interactions
Considerations for a Gifted Child

• Your child
  • Strengths, challenges, learning profile, learning style of child

• Academic needs
  • Content level, challenge, supplemental resources
  • Specials areas (art, music, PE)

• Social-emotional needs
  • Peers, self-regulation, task persistence, engagement

• Other professional support
  • IEP/504, Social worker, Psychologist, Resource teacher, OT/PT
Doesn’t Have to Be All or Nothing!

• You are not alone
  • Every circumstance is unique
  • Make your best decision
  • Leverage additional resources
  • Schools and districts are working hard
Which Option is Right for Your Family?

Jessica Koehler, Ph.D.

dr.jessicakoehler@gmail.com
Overarching Goodness of Fit

• One size does not fit all
  • Diverse learning needs of gifted individuals
• Consider many factors
  • Interaction between temperament and environment
• Resist trying to replicate what may work for others
• Creating a “good fit” will enhance parent-child attachment, which is the cornerstone of healthy development
Ultimate Goal

Synchronize learning environment with individual child’s needs…
…social-emotional, academic, and behavioral…
in combination with parental abilities and resources
Motivation: Importance of Choice

- Parental concern about motivation
  - What is motivation?
- Understanding intrinsic versus extrinsic motivators
  - What does the research say?
  - What can we do to enhance intrinsic motivation?
Self-Determination Theory (SDT)

Provide opportunities for each component to foster high-quality engagement and intrinsic motivation.
Decision-making: Which method should we choose?

- Schooling-at-Home
- Unschooling
- Charlotte Mason
- Montessori
- Relaxed/Eclectic
- Classical
- Waldorf
- Multiple Intelligences

Homeschool Styles Quiz—Fun Tool, but not a psychometrically validated instrument. https://www.homeschool.com/homeschooling-methods/
Ensuring the Right Fit

• First Rule of Homeschooling: Be willing to pivot as necessary :-)  
  • Flexibility is key  
  • Remember: Actual instructional time in school much less than we realize  
• Focus on developing a love of learning  
  • If that is happening, you are having success!  
• Siblings may have different needs  
  • Technology and/or outsourcing can help  
  • Differing schedules  
  • Depending on situation, siblings can assist each others
Homeschooling: Considerations by State

- Each state has VERY different regulations
- Example: California
  - Establishing Your Own Private School
  - Private School Satellite Programs
  - Public School Independent Study Programs
  - Public Homeschool Charter Schools
  - Tutoring via Credentialed Teacher

https://hslda.org/legal

Image courtesy of Homeschool Legal Defense Association
Social Life & Friends

Less options currently with COVID-19, but…

- Gives child opportunity and flexibility to partake in activities outside of school
- Homeschool co-ops often have field trips, play dates
- Find online interest groups
- Live online specialized classes
  - Many have social component as well
- Group lessons/sports
- Create your own in-person (if possible) or virtual groups
  - Game nights, LEGO® days, sports days...many choices
A Day in the Life

Profoundly Gifted Teenager
- Sample Classes: AP® Calculus, Physics, Advanced World History, Shakespearean Literature
- Additional “classes”: writing, art, music, physical education, etc., with Mom
- Teaches his own classes via Athena’s Advanced Academy
- Resources: Coursera, Crash Course, TedEds, Brain Games, BrainPop, YouTube select channels

Twice-Exceptional (2e) Elementary Son
- Structured asynchronous program online (based on his preferences)
- Tons of freedom to play and create
- Supplemental activities across a variety of subjects with Mom, Dad, and older brother
- Resources: BrainPop, Crash Course Kids, Education.com, Homeschool Pop

Both Children
- Real-life learning at every opportunity
- Field trips & travel
Costs for Homeschooling

• What are the elements to consider?
  • Curriculum
    • Free → tens of thousands $$$ for fully online school
  • Enrichment
    • Individual or group option
  • Online courses
    • Synchronous versus asynchronous
    • Fully online schools or individual course choices
Homeschool Benefits for Gifted Learners

- **Tailor** to appropriate level of academic challenge in all areas
- **Accelerated** pace
- **Accommodate** asynchronicity
- **Deep dives** in areas of interest
  - Example of afoxsden.com and Athena’s Junior Instructor
- **High school**: Dual enroll in high school/college classes
  - In-person or virtually
- **Find academic and social-emotional peers** beyond classroom age mates
- **More time** with family
Considerations for 2e Learners

- Very dependent on individual needs of child
  - What is the exceptionality?
- Strengths-based approach
  - More time cultivating strengths
  - Don’t over-focus on areas of weakness
- Shorter “lessons”
- Take many breaks
- Determine best times of day for learning to happen
- Adapt to unique learning needs more readily
- Maintaining healthy attachment is critical
STEP 1: Laying the Foundation

Conduct a Family Needs Assessment

Consider “Normal times” vs. “COVID-19 times”

— What are the needs of each family member and the family as a whole?
— What equity issues are important to us?
— What resources and time can our family realistically provide?

Clearly communicate priorities with all family members
Step 2: Investigating Requirements

Know Your State Regulations & Oversight

Different states have different levels of regulation and oversight for virtual and homeschooling.

- Find your state’s regulations about homeschooling:  [https://hslda.org/legal](https://hslda.org/legal)
- Check with your state education department for specific regulations on gifted and twice-exceptional learners:  [www.nagc.org/information-publications/gifted-state](http://www.nagc.org/information-publications/gifted-state)

State organizations for the gifted: Best resource for local expertise
Homeschool Students *May* Access Other Public School Services

**Important Questions to Ask**

- Are gifted services provided to homeschool students in my state?
- How and when do I request these services from my district?
- Is dual enrollment an option?
- What about standardized tests, athletics, and academic competitions?

**And, for 2e Students**

If your 2e child has previous accommodations, they are still entitled to them.

Be sure to record those provided at home so your child will continue to receive when they return to traditional school.

State Departments of Education are the final authority on these legal questions, but local homeschooling networks and public libraries can provide advice, too.

If state/district services are not available, link with other homeschooling parents to create your own.
Step 3: Exploring Resources

Identify and Locate Available Resources Before Making Final Decision

- Established virtual programs for gifted learners
- Homeschooling groups nationwide and locally
- Local libraries, community centers and organizations
- Standards and curriculum—understand differences of each
- Types of acceleration strategies for gifted: telescoping, compacting, self-paced, subject matter acceleration

See the full resource list provided with this webinar!
Don’t Be Afraid to Work with Your District

View District as a Partner, Not an Adversary

- Access local gifted expertise and curricular resources
- Learn details about free local options before deciding
- Expect that remote learning will be more rigorous this fall
- Consider local district as a partner whom you may need later
- Ensuring credit upon return (esp. HS) may require extra steps
- Advocate, advocate, advocate
Step 4: Crafting a Learning Plan During the Pandemic and Beyond

1. Reflect on **Family Needs Assessment**, **State Requirements**, and **Available Resources**.
2. Consider the costs and benefits of each option.
3. Create a flexible family plan with long-term goals and small steps for each child.
4. Create a backup plan. You may need it!
Food for Thought

Most learning options are not equitably available to all
Education Options & Equity Considerations

- Consider your family’s privilege and discuss equity with your gifted child
- Consider magnifying the impact of your time and expertise by including other gifted children
- Advocate for all gifted learners within local schools or community organizations
In Closing

Tracy Inman, Ed.D.
tracy.inman@wku.edu
Priorities & Needs Can Change

• Because alternate learning is the right option now, it may not be the right option later
• Variables can change year-to-year or within school years
• As child grows, needs and interests will change, too
  • Sports, extra-curricular, high school accreditation
Final Thoughts

• It’s important to stay calm and clear headed during these challenging times
• Preserving relationships—with your child, your family, your child’s teacher, your school/district—are most important of all
• There’s a good chance you will return to your district in the future, so it’s important not to burn bridges
• Stay positive…and focus on the needs of your child
Q&A

Tracy Inman, Ed.D.
Resources

Tracy Inman, Ed.D.
Homeschooling Resources from NAGC

- Alternate Education Options: Resources for Parents—NEW!

bit.ly/Alt_Ed_Resources
Homeschooling Resources from NAGC

- Exploring Homeschooling for Your Gifted Learner: An NAGC Select by Suki Wessling [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

- Articles from Parenting for High Potential

20+ TIP Sheets for Parents & Educators…

bit.ly/NAGC_TIP
New! Daily Summer At-Home Activities

bit.ly/At-Home_June

bit.ly/At-Home_July

bit.ly/At-Home_August
New Book: Just for Parents

Available from:

Amazon
NAGC Online Store
Prufrock Press
NAGC is Here for You During COVID-19

Supporting Your Gifted Child During COVID-19

As COVID-19 forces us to face social distancing, remote learning, place orders, gifted children are anxiety, sadness, intense feelings of ordinary behavior.

The National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) is here for you and your family. We know these are unprecedented times, but you are not alone. As always, NAGC is here to provide support, resources, and guidance to help you navigate this unprecedented time. 

SET A CALM, MEASURING TONE

Children are not as able to process the information we are receiving due to their age, development, and how much information we are presenting. They need a calm, measured voice to help them process the information.

Avoid overwhelming children with too much information. Children need a sense of predictability and routine. Give them the same schedule and activities you did before.

Avoid overwhelming children with too much information.

Managing Grief & Anxiety During COVID-19

As the world continues to navigate a global pandemic, parents may notice that their children are exhibiting behaviors often associated with grief or anxiety.

CAUSES OF GRIEF & ANXIETY DURING COVID-19

Losing a loved one, not knowing what is happening, not knowing what to expect, not knowing how long this will last, not knowing what the future holds.

Managing Grief

- Encourage children to express their feelings. Allow them to ask questions and process what is happening.
- Provide a sense of control. Children need to know that they can do something to help.
- Keep a routine. Children need a sense of predictability.
- Encourage healthy coping mechanisms, such as exercise, reading, or creative activities.

Managing Anxiety

- Encourage children to express their feelings. Allow them to ask questions and process what is happening.
- Provide a sense of control. Children need to know that they can do something to help.
- Keep a routine. Children need a sense of predictability.
- Encourage healthy coping mechanisms, such as exercise, reading, or creative activities.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

- Gift and anxiety are natural reactions to things that happen to children and adults alike. It is important to acknowledge and validate these feelings.
- It is important to provide children with a sense of normalcy. This can be achieved by maintaining a routine and keeping a sense of normalcy.
- It is important to provide children with healthy coping mechanisms. This can be achieved by encouraging them to express their feelings, ask questions, and participate in activities they enjoy.

For more information, visit: bit.ly/NAGC_atHome

Resources for Educators & Parents During COVID-19

Free Webinars & Live Chats

bit.ly/NAGC_atHome
Other Homeschooling Resources

• Homeschool Legal Defense Association (Please note, they are a religious-leaning organization…advocates for freedom to homeschool) [https://hslda.org/](https://hslda.org/)
• Gifted Home Schoolers Forum (GHF) [https://ghflearners.org](https://ghflearners.org)
• Alternative Education Resource Organization (AERO) [http://www.educationrevolution.org](http://www.educationrevolution.org)
• Beyond Booksmart (Coaching/Exec Functioning Support for Online Learners) [www.beyondbooksmart.com](http://www.beyondbooksmart.com)
• Iowa Talent & Gifted Association (ITAG) [https://www.iowataq.org/2020/06/28/supporting-gifted-learners-in-your-districts-return-to-learn-plans/](https://www.iowataq.org/2020/06/28/supporting-gifted-learners-in-your-districts-return-to-learn-plans/)
• The HomeSchool Association of California [https://www.hsc.org/](https://www.hsc.org/)
• Chicago Gifted Community Center [https://www.chicagogiftedcommunity.org/LOGYC](https://www.chicagogiftedcommunity.org/LOGYC)
• Pennsylvania Homeschoolers [www.phaa.org](http://www.phaa.org)
• *Homeschooling Gifted Students: An Introductory Guide for Parents* [www.davidsoninstitute.org](http://www.davidsoninstitute.org)

This list is intended to serve as a reference only. NAGC does not endorse or recommend a specific organization.
Other Homeschooling Books & Articles

• Ten Steps to Homeschooling  www.homeschoolnyc.com/homeschooling-ten-steps.html

• Time 4 Learning  https://www.time4learning.com/
  • https://www.aphomeschoolers.com/cgi-bin/choose.pl?class=nothing

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# General Gifted Resources

Nearly all also have information on learning at home.

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Note: This is not intended to be a comprehensive listing. Presence on this list does not constitute vetting nor endorsement by Gifted New York State, Inc.

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# Online & 2e-Friendly Resources

## Gifted & 2e Friendly Online Options

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Exploring Home Education Options During COVID 6/3/2020

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Enrichment Resources

- Davidson Institute
- Online G3
- Athena's Advanced Academy
- Art of Problem Solving
- Outschool
- Talent Search & Various Universities
  - Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth, Northwestern Center for Talent Development, Duke TIP, Western Kentucky University

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Thank you!

Become a member of our vibrant gifted community!
bit.ly/NAGC_Join

For more information, visit:
www.nagc.org