

SEPTEMBER 9, 2014

VOLUME 1

Explorers

Explorers

Gifted Education and Talent Development for RSU 22



“A Rising Tide Lifts All Ships” - Renzulli

A New Year With New Possibilities!

Greetings to all the families of the RSU 22 community! I am thrilled to be working with the district and look forward to the great things that will happen this coming year.

My name is Dr. Ruth Lyons, I was recently hired by the district as the Director of Gifted and Talented Education. I received my Ph.D. from the University of Connecticut in Educational Psychology with a concentration in Gifted Education and Talent Development. This position is a perfect fit and I see so much potential for us to be able to make a huge impact in the lives of our students.

I am a native of Maine. I grew up in Central and

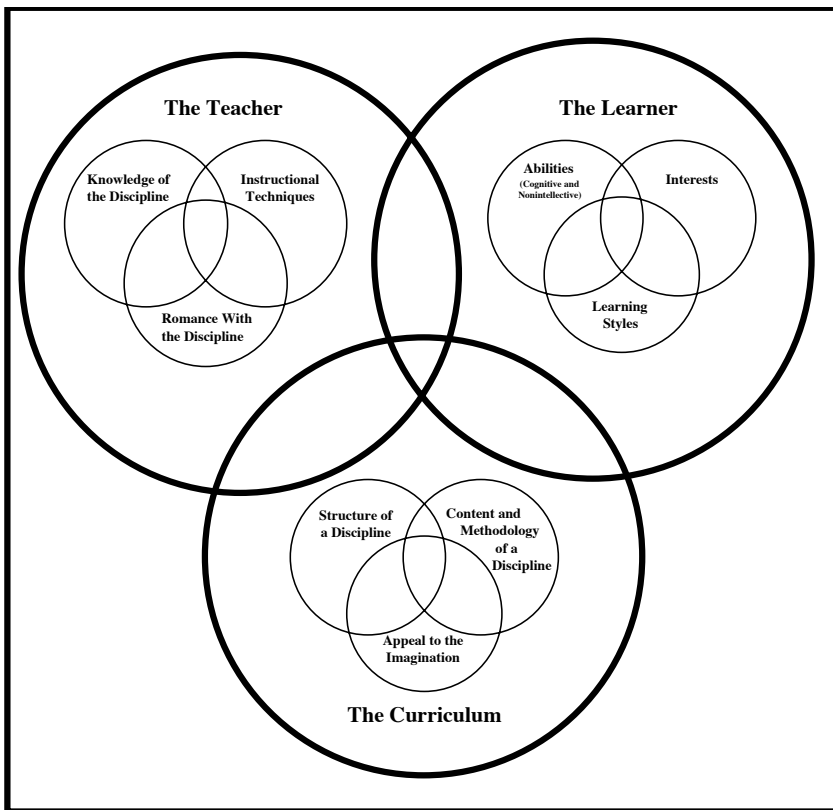
Southern Maine and graduated from the Maine School of Science and Mathematics. I am very excited to be returning to Maine and already feel quite at home!

My philosophy with gifted education and talent development is to develop talent in all students. All students need the opportunity to be exposed to enrichment and talent development. Our identified students will be receiving academic accommodations in addition to general schoolwide enrichment opportunities. Programming is about finding the right services to help each student discover their gifts and true potential.

It is my hope that this newsletter will be available every two weeks with updates of news about gifted education, advocacy opportunities, and talent development events that your family can take advantage of. I hope you will enjoy this publication and find its contents relevant and useful! I welcome any feedback at ruthlyons@rsu22.us

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The Schoolwide Enrichment Model - SEM: An Overview

By Dr. Joseph S. Renzulli

The Schoolwide Enrichment Model (SEM) (Renzulli, 1977; Renzulli & Reis, 1985, 1997) is widely implemented as an enrichment program used with academically gifted and talented students and a magnet theme/enrichment approach for all schools interested in high-end learning and developing the strengths and talents of all students. The major goal of the SEM is the application of gifted education pedagogy to total school improvement. The SEM provides enriched learning experiences and higher learning standards for all children through three goals; developing talents in all children, providing a broad range of advanced-level enrichment experiences for all students, and providing advanced follow-up opportunities for young people based on their strengths and interests. The SEM focuses on enrichment for all students through high levels of engagement and the use of enjoyable and challenging learning experiences that are constructed around students' interests, learning styles, and preferred modes of expression.

This research on the SEM suggests that the model is effective at serving high-ability students in a variety of educational settings and in schools serving diverse ethnic and socioeconomic populations. These studies also suggest that the pedagogy of the SEM can be applied to various content areas resulting in higher achievement when implemented in a wide variety of settings, and when used with diverse populations of students including high ability students with learning disabilities and underachievers.

Common Characteristics of Gifted Individuals:

Because gifted children are so diverse, not all exhibit all characteristics all of the time. However, there are common characteristics that many gifted individuals share:

- Unusual alertness, even in infancy
- Rapid learner; puts thoughts together quickly
- Excellent memory
- Unusually large vocabulary and complex sentence structure for age
- Advanced comprehension of word nuances, metaphors and abstract ideas
- Enjoys solving problems, especially with numbers and puzzles
- Often self-taught reading and writing skills as preschooler
- Deep, intense feelings and reactions
- Highly sensitive
- Thinking is abstract, complex, logical, and insightful
- Idealism and sense of justice at early age
- Concern with social and political issues and injustices
- Longer attention span and intense concentration
- Preoccupied with own thoughts—daydreamer
- Learn basic skills quickly and with little practice
- Asks probing questions
- Wide range of interests (or extreme focus in one area)
- Highly developed curiosity
- Interest in experimenting and doing things differently
- Puts idea or things together that are not typical
- Keen and/or unusual sense of humor
- Desire to organize people/things through games or complex schemas
- Vivid imaginations (and imaginary playmates when in preschool)

Your Treasure Map to Golden Events!

Parenting the Gifted Learner:

"Parents of gifted children are typically the **single most important influence** in their child's development, outlook, and fulfillment of talent."

- James Alvino

Take advantage of the great opportunities below! Many are FREE. Visit the websites for more information. Even though events are free, many require preregistration!



September:

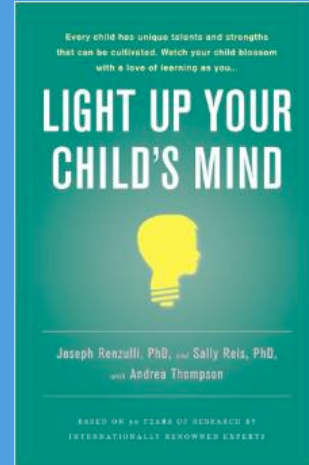
- **September 10th at 3:15-4:30:** Enrichment Math with MMSETS for students in grades 3-5 (www.mmsets.org)
- **September 11th at 3:30** (reoccurring every Thursday): After school Legos at the Edythe I. Dyer Community Library (www.edl.lib.me.us/youth-services/childrens-programs)
- **September 12th at 5:30 & 7pm:** Bangor Symphony Orchestra "On the Town" series featuring the Amarantos Quartet at Kah Bang Arts Central Gallery (www.bangorsymphony.org/articles/60-192/on-town-amarantos-quartet-at-central)
- **September 13th from 10am-3pm:** Heritage Day at the Hampden Historical Society (<http://tinyurl.com/hday2014>)
- **September 13th from 9am-3pm:** Natural Dyeing Workshop at Hirundo Wildlife Refuge (www.hirundomaine.org)
- **September 13th from 8-9:30am:** Monthly Bird Walk at Fields Pond, Greater Bangor (<http://maineaudubon.org/events>)
- **September 14th from 1-2:30pm:** Spiders! at Hirundo Wildlife Refuge (www.hirundomaine.org)
- **September 14th from 8:30-2:30pm:** Hawk Watch at Fields Pond, Greater Bangor (<http://maineaudubon.org/events>)
- **September 25th from 6-8pm:** Family Art Night at the Bangor Children's Museum (<http://tinyurl.com/familyart2014>)
- **September 27th from 10am - 1pm:** Science Saturdays at UMaine for students in grades 6-8 (<http://umaine.edu/4h/home/science-saturday>)
- **September 27th from 9am-2:30pm:** Great Maine Outdoor Weekend: Paddle and Walk at Hirundo Wildlife Refuge
- **September 27th from 11am-2:00pm:** Great Maine Outdoor Weekend Celebration at Fields Pond, Greater Bangor (<http://maineaudubon.org/events>)
- **September 28th from 1-2pm:** Turtles of Maine at Hirundo Wildlife Refuge (www.hirundomaine.org)
- **September 28th from 2:30-4:30pm:** Guided Paddle: Search for Turtles at Hirundo Wildlife Refuge

October:

- **October 2nd from 6-8pm:** Family Art Night at the Bangor Children's Museum (<http://tinyurl.com/familyart2014>)
- **October 4th from 10am-1pm:** Paws on Parade at Bangor Waterfront (<http://pawsonparade.kintera.org>)
- **October 9th from 6-8pm:** Family Art Night at the Bangor Children's Museum (<http://tinyurl.com/familyart2014>)
- **October 11th from 8-9:30am:** Monthly Bird Walk at Fields Pond, Greater Bangor (<http://maineaudubon.org/events>)
- **October 18th from 1pm-3pm:** Winterport Fall Festival at Abbott Park (www.facebook.com/winterportrecreation)
- **October 23rd from 6-8pm:** Family Art Night at the Bangor Children's Museum (<http://tinyurl.com/familyart2014>)
- **October 25th from 10am - 1pm:** Science Saturdays at UMaine for students in grades 6-8 (<http://umaine.edu/4h/home/science-saturday>)
- **October 30th from 6-8pm:** Family Art Night at the Bangor Children's Museum (<http://tinyurl.com/familyart2014>)
- **October 30th at 2:30-3:45:** Enrichment Math with MMSETS for students in grades 6-8 (www.mmsets.org)



Featuring:



September/October Book

The Explorers Cafe:

The Explorers Cafe is a book group for parents, caregivers, advocates, and more! The Explorers Cafe will meet every other month to discuss a book that has to do with gifted education. The first book we will be reading is by Dr. Renzulli and Dr. Reis, Light Up Your Child's Mind. Any adult is welcome to attend, this is not just for parents of identified students.

This book is based on the renowned "Renzulli Method," which has been adopted in schools all over the country, Light Up Your Child's Mind presents a practical program to help children fire up a love of learning to last a lifetime. World-renowned experts Drs. Renzulli and Reis illustrate the crucial role parents can play in their children's development and address how they can work with teachers to enhance their children's education. They uncover the hidden potential of daydreamers, rebels, and one-track minds, arguing that gifted behavior—basic smarts, high levels of task commitment, and creativity—can be fostered in bright children, even unmotivated ones. Step by step, Light Up Your Child's Mind will show parents how to set their kids on the path to a rewarding future.

Participants will need to purchase/obtain their own copy of the book and bring a treat to share with the group.

Meeting dates:

Thursday, October 16th at 6pm

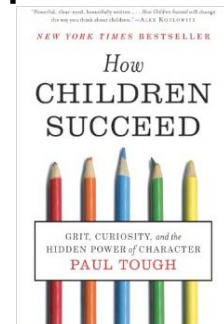
Friday, October 17th at 9am

Friday, October 17th at 3pm

Each session is limited to 20 adults. Please register at:

<http://tinyurl.com/explorerscafe>

Up next for the Explorers Cafe:



November/December Book

Contact Information:

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