

Bare Bones TAG Information

For Talented and Gifted staff
in the greater Dane County area

Greater Dane County TAG Coordinators Network (GDCTGCN) – www.greaterdanetag.org

- Approximately 40 districts in the Greater Dane County area are members of this organization. We meet 5 times per year, with occasional additional events. At each meeting we 1) hold a program for our members, 2) meet in small groups for discussions or for work on programs and events, and 3) conduct a business meeting.

Student Programs run by our TAG Network for member districts

- Fine Arts Weekend (grades 10-12): High school students register in the spring for this September program. Students stay overnight in Spring Green. They attend 3 plays at the American Players Theatre, attend workshops and a party with the actors from APT, and visit area art venues.
- Haiku (grade 4): Students submit Haiku poems by early February. Authors selected for publication are invited to an evening celebration in April.
- Yahara River Writers (grades 5-8): Students submit work in cartoons, editorials, poetry, or short stories by January. Authors selected for publication are invited to a Top Ten Workshop in May. Each participating district must work on judging, editing, or the workshop.
- Math 24 (grades 4-8): Students practice various levels of the Math 24 game and represent their districts at regional competitions. At each grade level, two districts each host a morning and an afternoon regional. Competitions are held January through April.
- Math Meet (grades 5-8): Teams of 8 (four 5th/four 6th or four 7th/four 8th) compete in four individual events and a group event at regional meets. Participating districts are assigned 2-year hosting duties on a rotating basis. The winning teams advance to the Mega Meet. Meets are held March through May.
- High School Activities (grades 9-12): A group that works in some years to set up opportunities for high school students.

Wisconsin Association for Talented and Gifted (WATG) - www.watg.org

- This is the state gifted organization that holds a large conference during the first week of October. We recommend that all staff new to gifted education attend the conference, as well as the pre-conference planned for new coordinators.

Wisconsin Center for Academically Talented Youth (WCATY) – www.wcaty.org

- Provides challenging academic residential programs (in the summer) and district coops (during the school year) for gifted students. Most districts in the area promote WCATY programs.

Midwest Academic Talent Search (MATS), run by the Center for Talent Development (CTD) at Northwestern University - www.ctd.northwestern.edu

- MATS is a national out-of-level testing program for gifted students. Students in grades 3-6 may take the 8th grade Explore Test. Students in grades 6-8 may take the ACT and SAT college entrance exams. Participation in MATS facilitates student participation in WCATY programs. Most districts provide MATS information to qualifying students.

GT Resource Guide for Wisconsin Public Schools – available at DPI - <http://dpi.state.wi.us/cal/gifted.html>

- A primary resource for Wisconsin districts. Includes Standard (t) – the state law that governs gifted programs, and the Wisconsin Pyramid Model – a graphic that represents a common philosophical approach to gifted programming in Wisconsin.