

Filling

THE GIFTED GAP

6 ways HiCap educators help students realize their potential

Gifted students require special support to discern and express their educational needs. In her SchoolData.net Presents webinar, "Self-Advocacy Skills for Middle Level HiCap Students," Wendy Clark shared some of the lifelong gifts that HiCap specialists can offer to their talented students.

Understanding of giftedness

Only when your students know what being gifted means – including social-emotional tendencies and the struggles that underlie each superpower – can they own their giftedness.



Self-knowledge

As students begin to see and know themselves, they can develop an appreciation for their talents and discover healthy ways to cope and overcome their struggles.



Motivation to grow

Self-knowledge lays a groundwork for group projects. Turn your group into a laboratory so students experience how their gifts interact with (and are honed by) others'.



Communication skills

Modeling, practice, and forced association all can help students learn how to articulate their needs persuasively and win people to their cause.



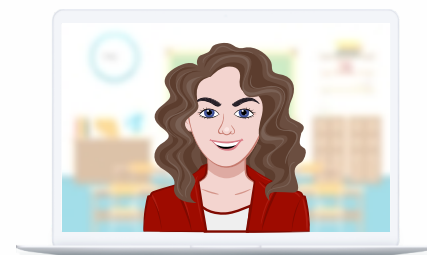
Connections with mentors

Support students in locating the opportunities and advocates that help them achieve their goals, such as in-school counselors, outside experts in a field of interest, or alternative study programs.



Attainable goals

Work with students to create personal plans for their differentiated learning. Let them upload their own observations and outcomes to document their growth.



Wendy Clark has been a classroom teacher for over 25 years, in the general classroom setting and in Talented and Gifted. She currently works as a middle levels teacher and K-12 Highly Capable Coordinator for West Valley School District #208. During the summer months and after school, she also serves as a gifted education consultant for districts throughout central Washington. She is the immediate past president of the Washington Association of Educators of the Talented and Gifted (WAETAG).

Sources: thegiftedguide.com, giftedguru.com, byrdseed.com, *The Power of Self-Advocacy for Gifted Learners* by Deb Douglas

Access the full presentation at
www.schooldata.net/webinars

