

*Welcome!*

*GT Back-to-School Night!!*

WRMS 2017-18

# *Tell Me About It!*

- On an index card, please print your name, phone number, and email address.
- Please write your child's name, and anything you'd like me to know about him or her! Special interests? Learning needs? Personality traits? Fun facts?



# About Me

- Raised in Boston; Graduated from U of Wisconsin-Madison
- Began teaching in 1974, mostly with GT students. I love working with middle school GT kids; I'll do all I can this year to encourage their intellectual and social/emotional growth!
- Personal belief: Kids don't care what you know if they don't know that you care! I want your kids to know that Room 224 is their home away from home! 😊
- Married to Stephen (Professor at UT-Austin). Two sons: Aaron (Political Risk Analyst) and Daniel (Speech/Language Pathologist). Daughter-in-law Kate, and twin grandsons James & Danny (If you'd like to see pictures, please let me know!) ;-)
- Fun Fact: I've spent 3 weeks living/teaching for the last ten summers in the palace where the Sound of Music was filmed! I LOVE to travel!!!!

# About Our Course Format

**Students come to GT once per week from their Social Studies class**

**Fall Semester: Explore “Global Perspectives” Theme**

**Generalizations:**

Global Perspectives may have positive or negative effects; can inspire/motivate change; can change over time; allow for synthesis, creativity, and entrepreneurial efforts.

**Key Questions:**

- How might global perspectives lead to shifts in thinking in core subject areas, technology, and the fine arts?
- How do varied global perspectives influence possibilities for future generations?
- How have past global perspectives influenced innovation or proven to be catalysts for change?

**Spring Semester: Independent Study Projects on Topics of High Interest (Student Choice of Topic)**

- Key Checkpoints Along the Way
- End of Year GT Exhibition of Student Work

# *About Our Class Format*

- Word of the Week
- Mind Bender
- Thought Provoker
- Activity/Lesson



# *Open Door Day*

- Fridays are Open Door Day
- Available during periods 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6
- Students must sign in each time they enter.
- It should be a productive learning time.
- Classroom teachers must give students permission to attend; students must meet all obligations in their other classes.
- Broken (small) appliances are welcome for reverse engineering opportunities

# *Enrichment*

- “TEDgt” speakers – parents willing to speak to kids at lunch periods for 15 minutes per period
- TEDxYouth@Austin – February 17, 2018
- Science Day – middle school kids develop science lessons to teach elementary level kids
- Debate Club -- Meets Tuesdays, beginning October 3
- Student Stock Tournament – Trading begins October 2
- Destination Imagination – District-wide parent meeting 6 PM on Sept. 6, at EISD Board Room. Regional Tournament March 3, 2018 at WHS
- Future City Engineering (UT Arlington) January 2018 (Date TBA)
- Model UN – Meets every other Wednesday, beginning November 1
- Field Trips – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Chemistry demo, GT Night at the Opera (all grades), and other social get-togethers!

# Travel

- Spring Break Travel: Croatia
- Summer Travel: South African Safari
- Please let me know if you are interested in either or both of these opportunities! We will host a meeting in September with more information!
- \*These private travel opportunities are open to all students, families, and friends in the community and are not school or district sponsored trips.



# Communication

Please check your Family Access account info and include the email address you check most frequently.

My “GT E-News” messages are sent through our school Message Center which pulls address info from Family Access.

I am unable to add or delete addresses.

I am here to help you/your kids in any way!! :-)

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