

# CHAT Southwest Montana

CHAT, Connect Help Advocate Talk, is an organization formed for the purpose of advocating for gifted learners residing in Bozeman and the surrounding area

During the school year, we host a series of content-driven seminars and social events designed to better equip parents to support the needs of gifted children

Come see us at one of our events (schedule below), connect with us via our website [www.chatswmt.com](http://www.chatswmt.com), or join our FB group CHAT Southwest Montana Gifted Community



## CHAT Meeting Schedule for 2018-2019:

**October 15, 2018: How Gifted Education Works in BSD7.** This seminar will be given by Lena Wessel (Gifted Education Office), Karin Neff (Data Science & Accountability Specialist), and Darren Schlepp (Principal, Morning Star) to help parents better understand how gifted education works in the public school system in Bozeman. Specific topics include identification, the MTSS process, STAR testing data, and how the Gifted Education Office works with the schools. 6:30-8pm at the Bozeman Public Library.

**November 12, 2018: Sharing Best Practices Parent Panel.** This meeting will feature parents who have successfully navigated the school-age years with their gifted child. They will share experiences and strategies, focusing on what worked well. The first hour will be focused on elementary school, and the second hour on middle school and the transition to HS. 5:30-7:30pm at the Bozeman Public Library.

**January 14, 2019: Teacher Panel – Using Differentiation to Add Depth & Complexity in the Classroom.** In BSD7, the needs of many gifted students are solved in the classroom by teachers who use differentiation to add “depth & complexity” to their work. In this seminar, five BSD7 teachers (elementary, middle and high school) will showcase various methods that they use to do this, sharing examples in math and English language arts. 6:30-8pm at the Bozeman Public Library.

**February 28, 2019: AGATE Conference Parent Get-Together.** AGATE is Montana’s association for gifted & talented education, and their annual conference will be held in Bozeman Feb 28-Mar 1. The Thursday evening program includes two featured speakers: Dr. Rachel McAnallen (math specialist) and Michael Clay Thompson (ELA specialist). Exact time and location TBA.

**April 9, 2019: Exceptionalities and Underachievement with Gifted Learners.** Chelsea Sloan, founder of Thinking Cap Educational Services, and Jodi Murray, founder of CHAT and About Families Counseling, will discuss their experiences working with 2E students and/or underachieving gifted students. 6:30-8pm at the Bozeman Public Library.