

# Nebraska Department of Education

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## High Ability Learners and Distance Learning

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As educators, we are being faced with a unique situation in an unprecedented time. Distance learning comes with its own set of unique circumstances that may be difficult, but it also presents opportunities for High Ability Learners. While you may not be seeing your students in person, creating an enriching, challenging experience is still possible because of the wonderful connections forwarded to us by technology! I have compiled a list of online resources that range from free samples of curriculum units to interactive experiences that are teacher-led for student learning. There is something for every grade and subject, and several interest-based resources for students. This is not an extensive list. There are several resources out there, but these are the ones that I vetted to ensure quality.

I encourage you to use as many online resources as possible, but make sure that you do not fall into the pitfall of mistaking fun and interactive for complex. It is easy to find learning “games” marketed toward gifted students. Please ensure all activities continue to extend their knowledge and stretch their thinking—not just keep their attention.

As always, if you are struggling to find resources to adapt your curriculum, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Think positive, and know that you are doing great things for children! You are not only their teacher, but their advocate. Keep doing the great work you are doing!

As always, email with questions or concerns.

Best,

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## **2020 AIG Remote Learning Resources – North Carolina Department of Public Instruction**

Link:

<https://www.dpi.nc.gov/students-families/enhanced-opportunities/advanced-learning-and-gifted-education/2020-aig-remote-learning-resources>

North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, in conjunction with the Division of Advanced Learning and Gifted Education, compiled resources that support the virtual instruction of gifted students.

The very first resource on the page is a link to a Webinar about adapting to remote learning, as well as the slides from the presentation. I highly recommend the slides and the Webinar. The first part is specific to North Carolina, but the instruction piece is universal.

Additionally, in a partnership with Duke TIP, they developed Learning Labs for teachers to use with students. They are labeled by grade level and category. Some of the categories include exploration, innovation, and interactions. Each lab has 8 activities in different categories such as ELA, science, logic puzzles, mindfulness, etc.

Under the Learning Labs, they have buttons with grade bands under “Virtual Enrichment and Extension.” This link will take you to a page that has a document with a Category (critical thinking, ELA, STEM, etc.), a link to a resource, and a description of that resource. They range from Harry Potter escape rooms to code.org. These are great activities to enrich their online learning experience.

Finally, for teachers, there is a link to online best practices and resources. Some examples are managing stress, Library of Congress Digital Collection, COVID resources for parents, etc.

This website by far has the most information and resources, and I highly recommend checking it out!

## **Gifted Enrichment Online Resources – Kentucky Association for Gifted Education**

Link: <http://kagegifted.org/resources2020/>

This website is especially great for Webinars. They include links to several Webinars from experts in the field, options to share with parents, and tips on surviving COVID-19 with gifted students. My personal recommendation would be “Surviving, Thriving, and Finding Magic in the COVID-19 Era” by Laila Sangruas. This is just one of many great Webinars available.

This resource also contains reliable sources for Social Emotional well-being and support for your gifted kiddos. As stressed as we are, they are as well! Make sure to always check on their emotional needs. Learning does not happen without basic needs being met!

Link:

<http://kagegifted.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/04072020Gifted-and-Talented-Enrichment-Support-Materials-2.pdf>

This is a link to a document that the Kentucky Association for Gifted Education has put together with recommendations from teachers. It is organized by thinking skills/content and grade level. Check it out for some enrichment activities!

### **Resources from the Gifted Guy – Todd Stanley**

Link: <https://www.thegiftedguy.com/resources>

This website is explicitly resources that are FREE and can be used with your gifted kids. It is a myriad of activities, mostly surrounding projects. All of these resources can be done in person or virtually. There are activities with directions as well as resources to engage parents or build different thinking skills. These are ready-to-use and can be tailored based on grade-level.

### **COVID-19 Resources – Vanderbilt Programs for Talented Youth**

Link: <https://pty.vanderbilt.edu/covid-19-resources/>

This link takes you to resources from Vanderbilt Programs for Talented Youth in partnership with Prufrock Press. Vanderbilt PTY regularly publishes a research-based curriculum specifically designed for gifted students. This resource is for grades K-8.

While this is designed to be accessible to parents, it can be taught as a lesson presented by you. Each lesson is complete with complex questions, examples, extensions, all needed resources, and more. They are also aligned with CCSS standards. This is a great way to teach high-level material and build critical thinking skills with a research-based model. If you like these, each of these lessons come from a curriculum book that can be purchased.

### **Gifted Ed Teacher Project Menu – Paradise Valley USD, Vetted by NAGC**

Link:

<https://www.nagc.org/sites/default/files/Paradise%20Valley%20USD-Gifted%20Teacher%20Menu-March%202020.pdf>

Much like the choice boards we give students, this menu is chalked full of options and resources for educators that will make life easier when teaching virtually. Not only do they have suggestions for every subject, but there are apps, tips and tricks, and ways to make online learning fun! This is an easy go-to if you feel as if your class is lacking or you want to shake it up.

### **ResearchQuest – Natural Museum of Utah**

Link: <https://nhmu.utah.edu/research-quest>

ResearchQuest is an amazing resource for making learning interactive and interest-based. The quests are predicated on solving “scientific mysteries” that the scientists at the museums themselves work on. This is great for talent development because they are learning from and thinking like experts in a domain. They offer classes that are completely free that students can sign up for as an extension or enrichment activity driven by their interests.

There is a link for teacher resources (<https://nhmu.utah.edu/research-quest/tools-for-teachers>) that outline all of the great resources available such as on-demand classes and live streams with experts. There are videos, 3D models, interactive maps and so much more! Think about how you can integrate this into other subject areas, such as ELA or history!

### **Byrdseed**

Link: <https://www.byrdseed.com/>

This website is an excellent resource for educators seeking quick skills for differentiation, SEL, and other resources. All of the information and resources are research-based, and they have examples that make it easy to apply to your current teaching. For example, there is a great section about adding depth and complexity that is user-friendly and comprehensive.

### **5280Math**

Link: <http://www.5280math.com/>

5280Math is designed for advanced learners in math and has resources for all grades. Activities range from problem sets to adding depth and complexity to math problems in calculus. The resources are broken down into elementary, middle, and high school categories. This is really great for enrichment, projects, or something for the gifted students to supplement other activities when they have mastered what is being worked on in class.