

GIFTED EDUCATION PROGRAM

Tammy Tindol

FAQS

- *What is the definition of gifted?*
Alabama's Definition: "Intellectually gifted children and youth are those who perform or who have demonstrated the potential to perform at high levels in academic or creative fields when compared with others of their age, experience, or environment. These children and youth require services not ordinarily provided by the regular school program. Children and youth possessing these abilities can be found in all populations, across all economic strata, and in all areas of human endeavor" (Alabama Administrative Code (AAC), 29-8-9.12 (1)).
- *How are students identified?*
For each student referred, information is gathered in the areas of Aptitude, Characteristics, and Performance. The information is entered on a matrix where points are assigned according to established criteria. The total number of points earned determines if the student qualifies for gifted services.
- *What services are available for gifted students?*
Grades 3-6: Pull-out Classes – The gifted specialist works with gifted students in a resource room for 3 hours per week.
- *What type of activities do students do in your class?*
Students take part in concept-based units that incorporate problem-based and service learning. Although the units we cover are the main focus, we do a variety of other activities: coding, chess, art, visual problem solving challenges, critical thinking activities, engineering, environmental awareness....the list goes on!
- *What if my gifted child misses classwork in the general education classroom while attending gifted pull-out class?* According to the Alabama Administrative Code, "Students will not be required to make up missed class work." If students miss a test due to gifted class, it will be necessary for them to take it at a time to be determined by the teacher.
- *Should I be concerned that my child will miss regular classwork?* Research has shown that they usually do not require as much repetition as other students to learn, and already know a substantial amount of grade level work. Also, when students are participating in gifted classes they are reading, writing, computing and learning concepts at a more advanced level than if they remained in the general education classroom. If the teachers or parents notice an issue, accommodations can be made if necessary.
- *Do students receive grades while in the gifted classroom?* No. The goal is to allow students to learn and take on challenges in a safe environment without the fear of receiving bad grades. Students learn to analyze their mistakes in order to grow.
- *Will my child have homework for gifted class?* No. I realize that students already have homework from other classes as well as responsibilities at home. Furthermore, a great deal of the things we do are completed through collaboration with other classmates.