

GIFTED GAZETTE

Ben Hill County Schools

A Note from the Gifted Coordinator

Thank you for taking the time to view the Gifted Gazette. I hope you find articles and other resources you can use in your classroom. The Gazette is also a great way to stay informed about Gifted Education in our schools. If you ever have anything you would like published in the Gazette, please reach out to me. Wishing you a Merry Christmas!

Susan Henry
Gifted Coordinator
Ben Hill County Schools
susan.henry@benhillschools.org
229-409-5500 Ext. 5811



FEATURED GIFTED TEACHER

DeDee Braddy



DeDee Braddy graduated from Fitzgerald High School in 1991. She then went on to Georgia Southern University where she earned a B.S. Degree in Education in 1996. DeDee began her career as the Resource Coordinator for Ben Hill PreK in 1996 and was there through 1998. She taught at Ben Hill Primary School from 1998-2001 and then worked at Central United Methodist Preschool in 2001. DeDee helped develop the Child Care Center at East Central Technical College and worked there from 2002-2003. She returned to Ben Hill Primary School in 2003 where she has taught Kindergarten, first grade, and second grade. She received her Masters of Education Degree from Walden University in 2006. She then received her Gifted Endorsement in 2023 and currently serves as a second grade teacher. She is a member of First Baptist Church. DeDee is married to Hank and has three children, Ben, Sarah and Maggie. She was awarded Ben Hill Primary School Teacher of the Year in 2023. DeDee enjoys spending time with family and friends and traveling.



Looking for a Christmas gift?



[Find out more here.](#)

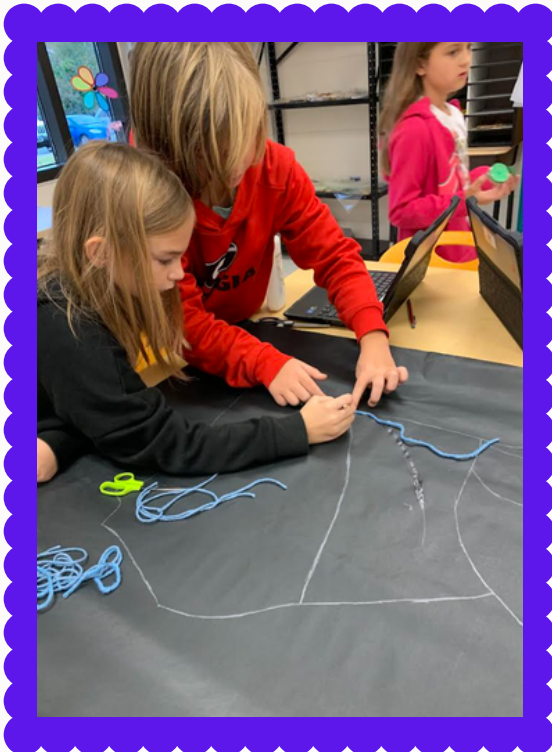


BHCS Headlines



Regions of GA

Third grade students in Susan Spivey's Gifted class at Ben Hill Elementary School completed a project on the regions of Georgia. The students created a topographical map of the different regions to show landforms from across the state. Students selected different materials to use to show the mountains, plateaus, rolling hills, wiregrass, swamp, and coastal region.





Play the best **FREE** Mind Games online with brain, math, crossword and word games, sudokus and memory games. Visit our Puzzle Games site for more Puzzle games.

brain-games.co.uk

puzzlegames.co.uk



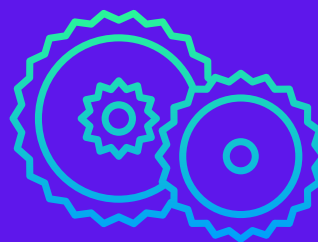
Differentiation may seem like a lot of work, which initially scares some teachers away from implementing it in their classrooms. They may think they don't have the time or that there's no need. What happens when you don't differentiate? This post will explore the benefits of differentiating instruction as well as what may happen when you don't differentiate in the classroom. Unless you have twenty kids who are all on the same exact level and who learn the same exact way, differentiation should become a part of your classroom routine.

[Read full article.](#)



Launchpad23

Experiences to challenge gifted minds and prepare them for their dreams.



5 Reasons Why It Is More Important Than Ever to Teach Creativity

by Nicole Krueger

On the laundry list of skills and content areas teachers have to cover, creativity doesn't traditionally get top billing. It's usually lumped together with other soft skills like communication and collaboration: Great to have, though not as important as reading or long division.

But research is showing that creativity isn't just great to have. It's an essential human skill — perhaps even an evolutionary imperative in our technology-driven world.



BHCS Headlines



A Day At the Jacksonville Zoo

On November 14th, the second grade gifted students in Kelly Kight's class at BHPS traveled to the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens in Jacksonville, FL. to conclude their research study of animals. Students had previously been working in the classroom to research an animal of their own choice and find information about the animal's appearance, behavior characteristics, habitats, and other interesting facts. After completing a research report and presenting it orally to their peers, they constructed dioramas of their chosen animals' habitats. The students used shoe boxes along with materials found in the classroom, as well as things from the outdoors to complete the dioramas. The dioramas have been on display in the media center at BHPS for the students to enjoy.

On the trip to the zoo in Jacksonville, students explored the zoo looking at the animals, while feeding several of them including the giraffes and stingrays. They also experienced some time in a classroom with an educational expert from the zoo, where they were able to learn more about specific species at the zoo and handle those species firsthand. The students had a fun ride on the train and the carousel at the zoo, and also enjoyed a picnic lunch. The day was topped off with a 4D theater experience. This was a great experience for our second grade gifted students at BHPs.

More BHCS Headlines



PROFESSIONAL LEARNING
OPPORTUNITIES**FREE****FROM THE REZULLI CENTER FOR
CREATIVITY, GIFTED EDUCATION, AND
TALENT DEVELOPMENT**

- January 20 @ 11 am, Nancy Hertzog - Igniting Creative & Critical Thinking in Early Childhood Classrooms
- March 9 @ 11 am, Marci Voss - Addressing the Instructional Needs of Gifted Multilingual Learners
- May 11 @ 11 am, Dina Brulles - Building and Supporting Inclusive Gifted Services

[Register Here](#)

Defying popular myths that assume most gifted people are wealthy, white, and will do fine on their own, **THE G WORD** reveals the economic, cultural, and gender diversity of our nation's gifted and talented population at every stage of life, highlighting their educational challenges, social isolation, deep emotional sensitivities, and complex, neurodiverse brains. It puts a face to the physical threats experienced by many in our schools and society-at-large, while also revealing a large and lively community of people working hard to meet their needs while challenging the prejudice and trauma that comes with being labeled "smart" in the 21st century.

The videos spotlight a selection of stories and experts featured in THE G WORD. Though each short video stands on its own, they're part of the larger picture we are currently investigating and shaping.

[Find out more here.](#)**DIFFERENTIATING CURRICULUM FOR
GIFTED LEARNERS**

by Elissa F. Brown, Hunter College

Curriculum for gifted learners requires adaptations from the typical grade level content to address their cognitive and affective characteristics. Curricular adaptations should occur regardless of the grouping model and the type of giftedness. A teacher who differentiates effectively is balancing differentiation across the dimensions of content, instruction, and product.

[Read full article.](#)**TEACHER
HUMOR**

BHCS Headlines



Christmas Around the World

Students in Susan Spivey's Gifted classes are working on an Around the World Christmas project. Students chose a country to research and created a poster telling about customs, traditions and foods eaten during this season of the year. The students also created a 3D item that represents the country during Christmas.



whychristmas.com/cultures/



Odyssey of the Mind®

Odyssey of the Mind (OM™) teaches students how to develop and use their natural creativity to become problem-solvers. Imagine being faced with a problem that requires an original solution. It can be frightening. Now imagine not being afraid to solve that problem – that is what OM members learn. This skill and self-confidence will carry over to all areas of their lives. OM brings the classroom to life as students apply what they learn and combine it with their interests and passions to solve our unique open-ended problems. OM also emphasizes teamwork, budgeting, time management, public speaking, and so much more. This international program is designed to help students at all learning levels grow as individual learners, grow as team members, and to reach their full potential.

Find out more.

Neuroscience of Giftedness: Increased Brain Areas Associated with Emotional Processing

by Sharon Duncan, Corin Goodwin, Joanna Haase, PhD, MFT, and Sarah Wilson

A collaboration of GHF: Gifted Homeschoolers Forum and GRO: Gifted Research and Outreach

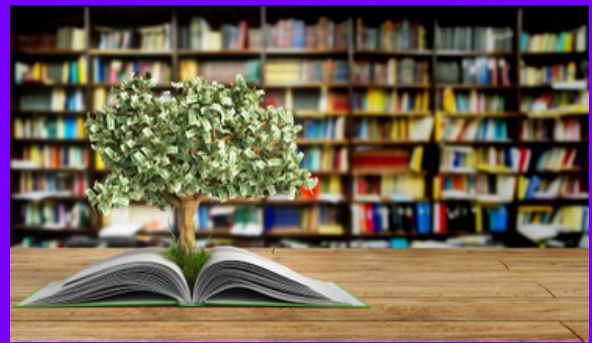
Intense emotions are one of the greatest joys and challenges for many gifted people. The ability to pick up and reflect on other people's feelings and react passionately to the world around them inspires them as well as others, but it can also create a heavy burden of caring too much about too many things all the time.



[Read full article.](#)

Teacher Toolkit

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) has compiled these resources to help you teach research skills to your students. The toolkit includes links to websites and documents that provide background information on knowledge formation, specific resources for the four core content areas, tips for differentiating instruction for Gifted/Talented (G/T) learners, techniques for conducting research, and sample scope and sequence documents. [Click here.](#)



GREAT READS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL READERS

The Interplanetary Expedition of Mars Patel by Sheela Chari

Julius Zebra: Grapple with the Greeks by Gary Northfield

Julius Zebra: Entangle with the Egyptians by Gary Northfield

The Clockwork Crow by Catherine Fisher

Welcome Back, Maple Mehta-Cohen by Kate McGovern

Colossus: The World's Most Amazing Feats of Engineering by Colin Hynson

Mandy by Julie Andrews Edwards

Baby Island by Carol Ryrie Brink

Star Island by Louise Dickinson Rich

The Thundering Prairie by M.A. Hancock

The 21 Balloons by William Pene du Bois

