

# GIFTED GAZETTE

## Ben Hill County Schools

### A Note from the Gifted Coordinator

Happy New Year! As we begin this new year, please remember to take time to notice those students who are showing characteristics of a gifted learner. Make note of any exceptional talents, unique disposition, imagination and humor, extraordinary vocabulary or advanced interests. Please reach out to your RTI Coordinator or lead gifted teacher for possible nomination of these students. Nominations can now be found and completed on the district website under Gifted Education.

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Gifted Coordinator  
Ben Hill County Schools  
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229-409-5500 Ext. 5811



### FEATURED GIFTED TEACHER

*Emily Johnson*



Emily was born and raised in Fitzgerald and graduated high school in 2003. She then attended ABAC earning her Associate of Science degree. After ABAC, she transferred to Georgia College & State University in 2006. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education in 2008. She received her Master's through Walden University in Elementary Reading and Math. She then went on to complete her Education Specialist degree in general Early Childhood Education from Georgia Southwestern & State University in 2012. In the spring of 2023, she earned her Gifted Endorsement. Emily began teaching in the fall of 2008 at Ben Hill Elementary School where she taught 4th grade. Three years later, she was moved to 5th grade and has been teaching there ever since. Emily is currently in her fifth year of teaching accelerated ELA classes. Emily is a member of Arbor Baptist Church where she sings in the choir and on the praise team. She enjoys spending time with her boyfriend on his farm and spending time with her family.

**INTERESTED IN  
GETTING YOUR  
GIFTED  
ENDORSEMENT?**

**PLEASE CONTACT ME**

[susan.henry@benhillschools.org](mailto:susan.henry@benhillschools.org)

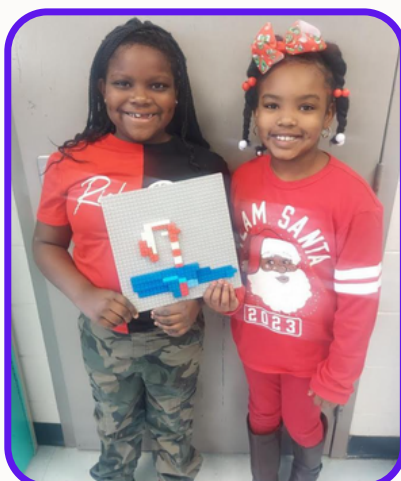
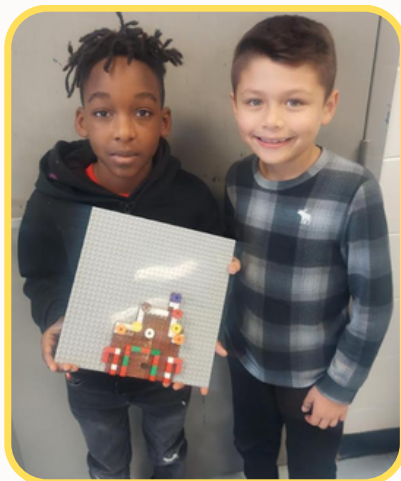


## "The Blocks Came Out at Night"

## BHCS Headlines



BHPS students in Tiffany Coleman's STEAM class read the story, *The Blocks Came Out at Night* by Javier Garay. The students learned about the power of building and creating with triangles and how the structures are held strong. Students were challenged to create a Lego Christmas creation. This taught the students patience, team work, and determination as it was a challenging task.





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

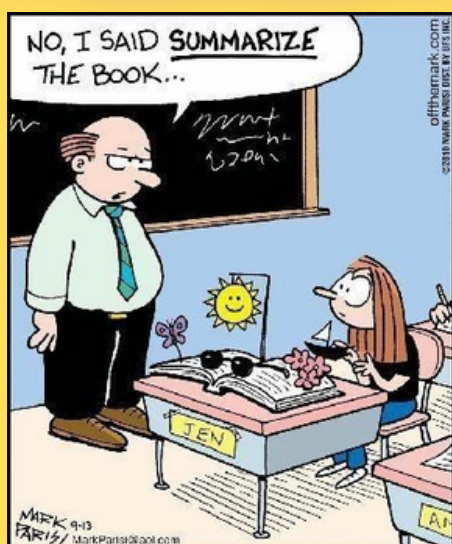
- January 20 @ 11 am, Nancy Hertzog - Igniting Creative & Critical Thinking in Early Childhood Classrooms
- March 9 @ 11 am, Marci Voss - Addressing the Instructional Needs of Gifted Multilingual Learners
- May 11 @ 11 am, Dina Brulles - Building and Supporting Inclusive Gifted Services

[Register Here](#)

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[studyjams.scholastic.com](http://studyjams.scholastic.com)**TEACHER  
HUMOR****USING HAIKU POETRY**  
*in the classroom*

GIFTEDGURU

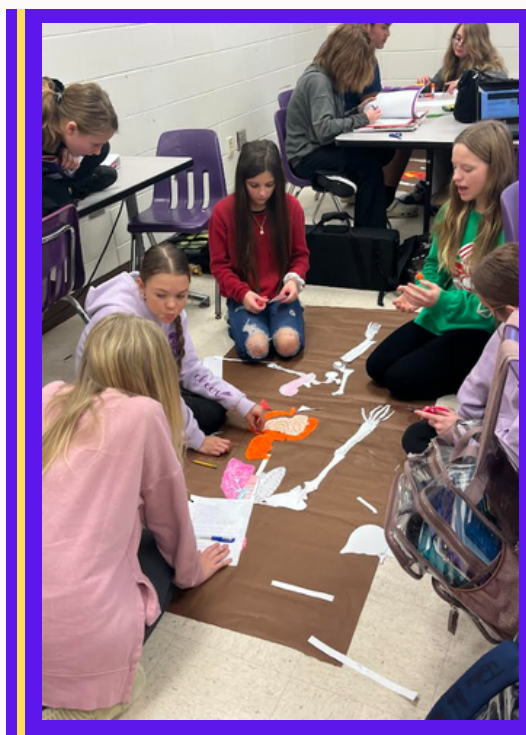
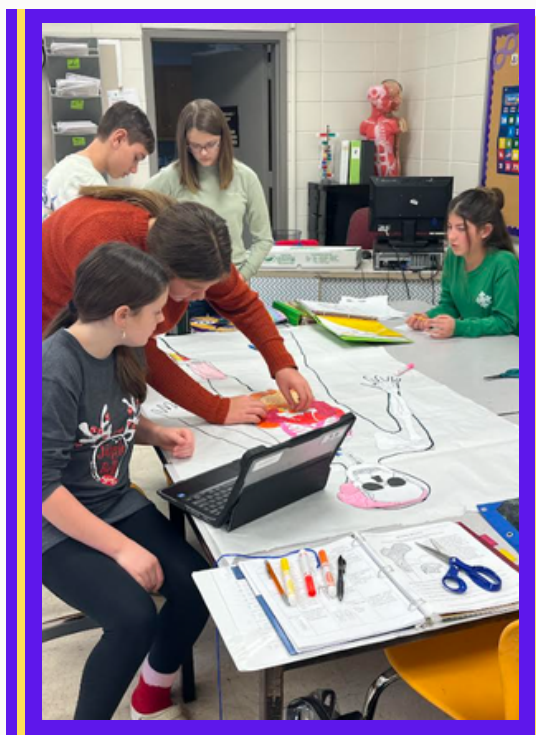
[Read more here.](#)

## BHCS Headlines



### Investigating Body Systems

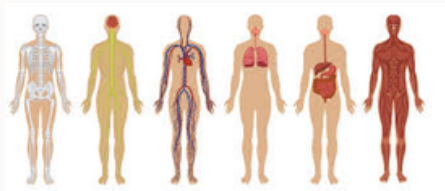
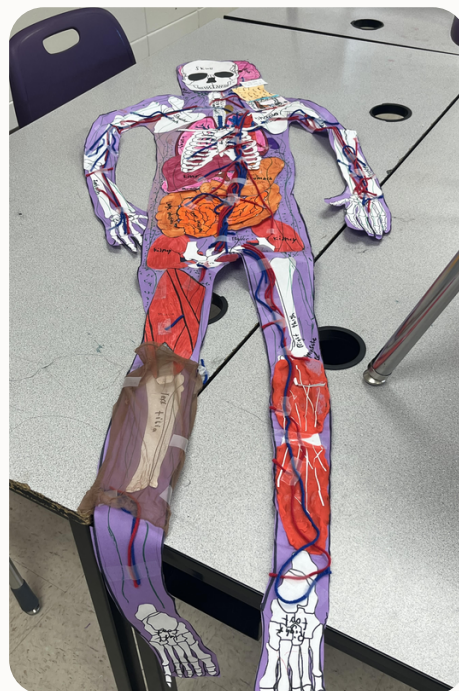
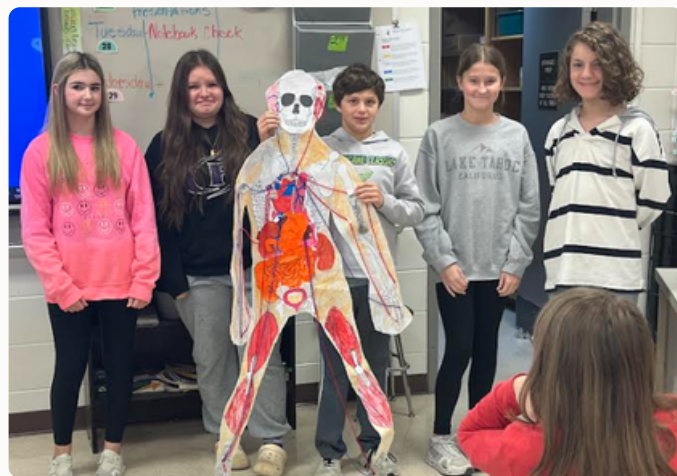
Ben Hill Middle School students in Dawn Giddens' class are learning about body systems. The students are building a body with each system and must be able to explain how each system interacts with another to carry out life processes.







## More BHCS Headlines





## Making a Difference: Motivating Gifted Students Who Are Not Achieving

by Del Siegle & D. Betsy McCoach

Gifted students are one group of exceptional learners who are not normally considered at risk for academic failure. We often expect the brightest students to also be the most motivated. Unfortunately, many gifted students seem to lack motivation in school. Watching bright students perform below their potential is a source of frustration for many teachers, parents, and counselors.



[Read full article.](#)

## Identifying the Creative Child in the Classroom

by Stacia Garland

If you are the parent of a creative child, you are aware of your child's ability to think differently from other children. However, teachers may have a more difficult time appreciating the creative thinker, unless that child demonstrates their creativity through the arts. This is because creative children are more likely to demonstrate the following qualities: daydreaming, wanting to work alone, sharing bizarre thoughts and conflicting opinions, and on top of this, these children may not be motivated by grades. None of these are qualities which are appreciated in the traditional classroom.

[Read full article.](#)

