

Hello,

My name is Mrs. Tracey Stockton-Burnett. I am the Fentress County Gifted and Talented Coordinator and Teacher for the all five schools within the Fentress County School District. Our gifted program is research based program that includes the most current research and practices for gifted learners. Research includes Dr. Paul E. Torrance creative behavior and development, Dr. J.P. Guilford's research on the nature of creative intelligence, Dr. Frank Williams's methods of encouragement of full potential through thinking and feeling, the Tennessee Association of Gifted (TAG) and the National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC).

We serve our students using a pull-out program. Trying to meet the needs of all our students we provide a minimum of 1 hour once a week, where it is with peers or individual. We also have several students that are receiving gifted services within the regular classroom, inclusion.

#### Definition as defined by the Tennessee State Department of Education

“Intellectually Gifted” means a child whose intellectual abilities and potential for achievement are so outstanding the child's educational performance is adversely affected. “Adverse affect” means the general curriculum alone is inadequate to appropriately meet the student's educational needs.

Within our school system we have discovered that gifted students are often several levels above their peers with one or more academic areas, however, grade skipping is not an appropriate response to dealing with their intelligence. Within the program we work with the student and parent develop a plan to reach and fulfill their goals and expectations for their education needs. Within the program the students plan would include activities according to Bloom's Taxonomy of Educational Objectives; knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis and evaluation. Also included within the program is visual arts and technology.

Our gifted program theme for the school year will be ... “In the Movies”. We will be working with the many different facets of Movies, movie making and a full study of media and techniques in art. I will be taking the math, reading and social studies curriculum and the visual art curriculum to help improve our students understanding of these subjects.

#### Criteria for Eligibility for Gifted

Eligibility for services as a gifted student is based on evaluation in each of the following component areas:

- Educational Performance
- Creativity/Characteristics of intellectual giftedness
- Cognition/Intelligence

This is through a series of activities, test, checklist, evaluations, and grades of the student, by the parent, school psychologist, gifted coordinator/teacher, regular classroom teacher, and the LEA representative.

How do you know if your child is gifted?

All children are special and have their own areas of strength. However, some children have unusually advanced abilities that require special adjustments at home and school to help them grow and learn (Please see the attached brochure.)

Other signs might include, but are not limited to:

- Abstract thinking
- Advanced learning
- Curiosity
- Early reading
- Intense interests
- Long attention span
- Memory
- Perfectionism
- Sense of humor
- Sensitivity
- Verbal ability

Intellectual giftedness is found throughout diverse populations and crosses all economic and cultural boundaries. Early identification and intervention are often required to meet the unique needs of these children.

### The Referral Process

Anyone, including the parent(s), guardian, or community professional may refer a student for screening and possible evaluation. A screening team of educational professionals considers screening information, previous evaluations, and teacher/parent input to determine if a comprehensive evaluation is needed. The team's decision is based on multiple data sources.

An assessment team will determine the types of assessment needed. All procedural safeguards are followed to ensure evaluation procedures are non-discriminatory.

Special services are often required to meet the unique needs of gifted children. A team of professionals and the child's parent(s) plan the student's educational program based on the assessment information obtained through the evaluation process.

Tracey Stockton-Burnett, Ed.S.  
Fentress County Gifted Program