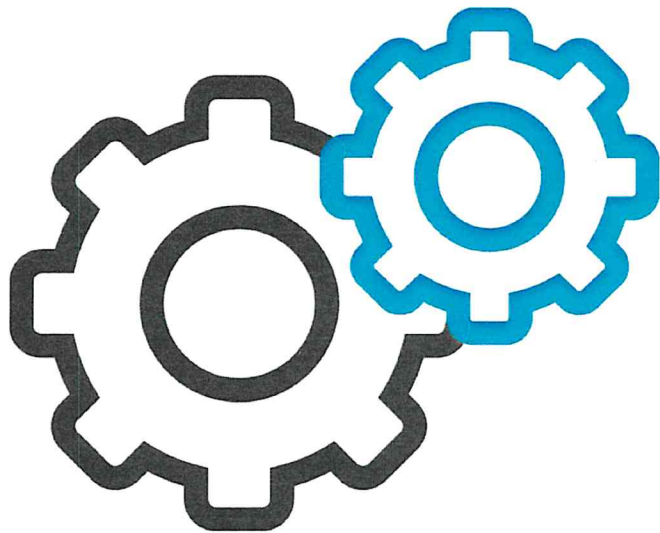


## WHO WE ARE

GEMS, the gifted program of Tishomingo County Schools, is an acronym for "Great Expectations Mean Success." In the GEMS program, we identify and serve intellectually gifted students through a differentiated curriculum that helps students develop individual talents both educationally and emotionally. We support children from all backgrounds in reaching their personal best.



## CONTACT US

### CENTRAL OFFICE STAFF

Gifted Coordinator - Cliff Nunley  
Gifted Contact Person - Teresa Lomenick  
1620 Paul Edmondson Drive  
Iuka, MS 38852  
(662)-423-3206

### TEACHERS OF THE GIFTED

Belmont  
Melissa Graham  
mgraham@tcsk12.com  
(662) 454-3379

Burnsville  
Taylor Glidewell  
tglidewell@tcsk12.com  
(662) 427-9226

Iuka Elementary  
Melissa Henderson  
mhenderson@tcsk12.com  
(662) 423-9290

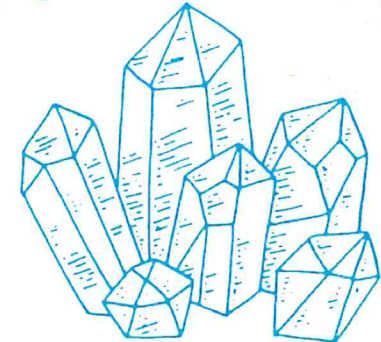
Iuka Middle  
Brittany Osborn  
bosborn@tcsk12.com  
(662) 423-3316

Tishomingo  
Sara White  
swhite@tcsk12.com  
(662) 438-6835



TISHOMINGO COUNTY  
SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Together We Can Succeed

# G.E.M.S.



TISHOMINGO COUNTY  
GIFTED EDUCATION

## MOTTO

Be the best of whatever  
you are.

-Douglas Malloch



## OUR MISSION

The mission of Tishomingo County Schools' Gifted Education Program is to identify and serve intellectually gifted students. By participating in the GEP, students will develop individual talents both educationally and emotionally through a qualitatively differentiated curriculum in a safe environment.



## REFERRAL, ASSESSMENT, & PLACEMENT

Students may be referred through mass screening or through an individual process. A student must meet at least 3 referral criteria to move forward to an individualized intelligence test. The student must obtain a score at or above the 90th percentile to be ruled eligible. To officially be placed in GEMS, parents must sign permission for placement.

For more information, please visit our district website:  
[www.tcsk12.com](http://www.tcsk12.com)

## COMMON CHARACTERISTICS OF GIFTED CHILDREN

- Good problem-solving abilities
- Learns rapidly
- Extensive vocabulary
- Good memory
- Longer attention span
- Compassion for others
- Perfectionism
- A high degree of energy
- Prefers older companions
- Wide range of interests ( or narrow ones)
- Experimenting & doing things differently
- Unusual sense of humor
- Early or avid reader with great comprehension
- Ability with puzzles, mazes, or numbers
- At times seems mature for their age
- Insatiable curiosity and persistence
- Intense concentration
- Perseverance in areas of interest
- May question authority
- Advanced sense of conscience
- Perceives abstract ideas, understands complex concepts
- Exhibits creativity

While it is rare for a gifted child to exhibit all these characteristics, it is common for a gifted child to manifest many of these.

## WHAT DOES GIFTED MEAN?

According to the Mississippi Department of Education, giftedness is defined as, "Children and youth who are found to have an exceptionally high degree of intelligence, gifts, and talents as documented through the identification process."

Gifted children are reflected in every ethnic, racial, and socioeconomic group, and they come in all shapes and sizes. They have different strengths and abilities and are as diverse as humanity itself. Generally speaking, gifted learners possess high levels of intelligence, creativity, critical and creative thinking, and intellectual curiosity.

