

MEET YOUR GIFTED EDUCATOR



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Gifted Education Teacher

GALA - Gifted and Lifelong Achievers

"I believe gifted education should give students the freedom to wonder, question, create, explore, and discover what they are capable of."

Questions about GALA?

Families are welcome to reach out with questions about gifted education, referrals, or the GALA program.

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GIFTED EDUCATION AT A GLANCE

Wilkinson County School District's gifted education program provides identified students with a **qualitatively different educational experience** designed to nurture intellectual, creative, social, and emotional growth.

In Mississippi, gifted education programs are mandated for intellectually gifted students in **grades 2-6**.

Gifted education is not simply "more work."

GALA provides opportunities for greater depth, complexity, creativity, inquiry, and independence. It is designed to meet the educational needs of students who require specialized gifted services - not simply to reward students for high grades.

OUR VISION

We want gifted learners to feel valued and supported in an environment that challenges and inspires them to pursue excellence and develop a passion for lifelong learning.

LEARN MORE

For statewide gifted education guidance and family resources, visit the Mississippi Department of Education Gifted Programs page:

mdek12.org/elementaryedu/algp/

Wilkinson County School District follows applicable Mississippi gifted education regulations and district policies and procedures.

GALA

Gifted and Lifelong Achievers

Wilkinson County School District

Curious Minds
Creative Thinkers
Lifelong Learners

**Discovering Potential
Developing Talent
Inspiring Excellence**

WHAT IS GIFTED EDUCATION?

Gifted education is designed to meet the unique learning needs of students who demonstrate exceptionally high intellectual abilities and require learning experiences beyond the regular program of instruction.

Gifted learners may be highly curious, imaginative, unusually observant, advanced problem solvers, intensely interested in particular topics, or eager to understand how and why things work. **Giftedness does not look the same in every child.**

WHAT STUDENTS EXPERIENCE IN GALA

- Critical and creative thinking
- Problem solving and decision-making
- Research, inquiry, and independent learning
- STEM and hands-on exploration
- Communication and collaboration
- Creativity and innovation
- Leadership and career awareness
- Social-emotional and affective growth

Students may engage in investigations, projects, challenges, research, discussions, presentations, and other experiences that encourage them to become confident, thoughtful, and independent learners.

HOW ARE STUDENTS IDENTIFIED?

Wilkinson County School District follows Mississippi Department of Education requirements for identifying students who may be intellectually gifted.

1	Referral A student is referred for consideration.
2	Review & Screening Information and multiple measures are reviewed according to state and district procedures.
3	Assessment When appropriate, parental permission is obtained and required assessment is completed.
4	Eligibility The Gifted Local Survey Committee reviews assessment data and determines eligibility.
5	Placement Written parental permission is obtained before an eligible student is placed in gifted services.

WHO CAN REFER A STUDENT?

A referral may be initiated by a parent, teacher, counselor, administrator, peer, the student, or another person who has reason to believe the student may be intellectually gifted.

Think your child may be gifted? Contact the Gifted Education Teacher to learn more about the referral process.

OUR GOALS

GALA is designed to help students recognize and develop their potential through challenging, stimulating, and meaningful learning experiences.

- Provide curriculum that promotes depth, complexity, creativity, and higher-level thinking.
- Support students in developing self-awareness, self-direction, confidence, and healthy learning habits.
- Encourage intellectual curiosity, productive struggle, and thoughtful risk-taking.
- Create opportunities for gifted students to learn and collaborate with intellectual peers.
- Help students grow as creative problem solvers, researchers, communicators, and lifelong learners.

A FEW THINGS TO KNOW

Gifted does not mean perfect.

Gifted students can have strengths, challenges, and uneven areas of development just like any other learner.

Grades alone do not define giftedness.

Strong academic performance may be one indicator, but gifted identification considers more than report-card grades.

Gifted services are an educational need.

Participation is intended for students who meet eligibility requirements and need specialized gifted instruction.

**Challenge minds. Encourage curiosity.
Develop creativity. Nurture potential.**