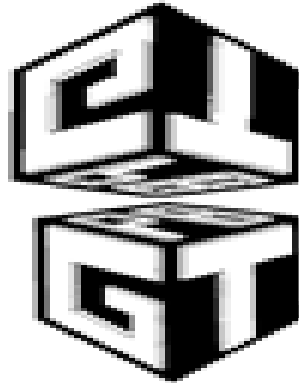


Pine Bluff School District

Gifted & Talented Program

2022-2023 Student Handbook



Gifted & Talented Center

Trice Building

711 W 11th Ave

Pine Bluff, Arkansas 71601

870-543-4300 ext 271

Melissa Rice

Coordinator of Gifted Programs

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PINE BLUFF SCHOOL DISTRICT GIFTED PROGRAMS

Gifted and Talented Center-Trice Building

Melissa Rice
870-543-4300
Coordinator of Gifted Programs
711 W 11th Ave
Pine Bluff, AR 71601

Telephone:

ext 271

870-543-4302

Fax:

E-Mail: melissa.rice@pinebluffschoos.org

WELCOME

We are so excited to see our returning students and ready to get to know our new students, as well! You will see that we are more than just a class here at the GT Center in the Trice Building, we are family!



The Pine Bluff School District Gifted and Talented Program

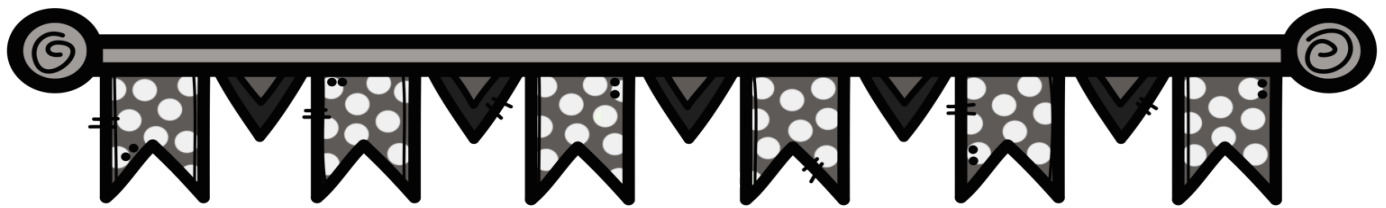
Coordinator: Melissa Rice

Gifted and Talented Center-Trice Building
711 W 11th Ave
Pine Bluff, AR 71601
(870) 543-4300-Phone ext 271
(870) 543-4302-Fax

The Pine Bluff School District's Gifted and Talented Program provides an educational environment for the identified gifted and talented students, allowing them to develop intellectually, socially, and emotionally.

Outstanding achievement or the potential for outstanding achievement of each student is evident through an interaction of above average intellectual ability, task commitment, and creative ability.

All types of gifted students from all cultures and economic background regardless of race, sex or creed who have demonstrated a need for specialized service will be offered a qualitatively differentiated curriculum.

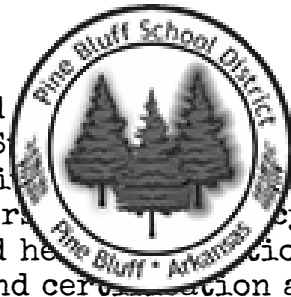


The GT Staff

PBSD GT



Center-Trice Building is staffed this year by one facilitator along with the Coordinator of Gifted Programs for the Pine Bluff School District.



Facilitator, Ms, Donna Shepherd has a Bachelor of Fine Art from Delta State University in Cleveland, Mississippi. She received her certification in Teaching from Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas. Ms. Shepherd completed her certification in Gifted Education from UALR and certification as an Early Childhood Special Education Instructional Specialist from UAM. Ms. Shepherd has taught Gifted and Talented Education for the Phillips Monroe Special Cooperative and Early Childhood Special Education over the past 20 years. She is our Quiz Bowl and Chess coach for each team as well as the Destination Imagination team.



Ms. Donna Shepherd

Program Coordinator, Mrs. Melissa Rice graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Education from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. She received her Masters degree in Gifted and Talented Education PK-12 from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Mrs. Rice has earned certification and endorsements in other areas which includes Elementary Education 1-6, Early Childhood Education PK-4, as well as Coaching K-12. Mrs. Rice has been in education for 30 years and in the area of Gifted and Talented for the past 8 years as a teacher and coordinator.



Mrs. Melissa Rice

Pine Bluff School District

1215 W Pullen Ave
Pine Bluff, AR 71601
(870) 543-4200
Fax: (870) 543-4208

[Pine Bluff School District](http://www.pinebluffschools.org)

PINE BLUFF SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Johnny Key

Commissioner of Arkansas Department of Education

Barbara Warren - Superintendent of Schools

Phillip Carlock- Assistant Superintendent

Kelvin Gragg- Assistant Superintendent

Office of the
School Board

Gifted & Talented



EVERY
CHILD IS A
different KIND OF *flower,*
AND ALL TOGETHER,
MAKE THIS WORLD
A *Beautiful*
GARDEN.



by definition



Gifted and Talented children and youth are those of high potential or ability whose learning characteristics and educational needs require qualitatively differentiated educational experiences and/or services.

Possession of these talents and gifts, or the potential for their development, will be evidenced through an interaction of above average intellectual ability, task commitment and /or motivation, and creative ability.



Gifted and Talented Characteristics

Checklist

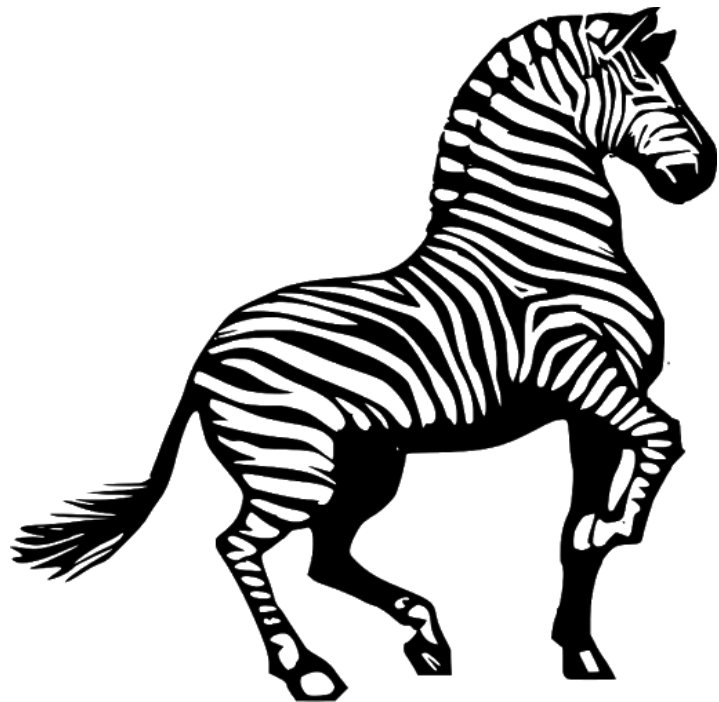


The gifted student often exhibits many of the following characteristics:

- Exhibits asynchronous development. Example: Can read at an early age but can't tie his/her own shoes until the age of five.
- Learns material faster, and at an earlier age.
- Remembers what has been learned...forever.
- Is able to deal with concepts that are (often) too complex and abstract for age peers.
- Has a passionate interest in one or more topics.
- Can operate on multiple brain channels simultaneously and process more than one task at a time.
- Is extremely precocious when compared to age peers.
- Has an advanced vocabulary.
- Learns some things very easily with little or no help from others.
- Sees patterns, relationships, and connections that others may not.
- Prefers complex and challenging tasks to "basic" work.
- Wants to share what he/she knows.
- Asks endless questions.
- Is a keen and alert observer, doesn't miss anything.
- Is very intense; may be emotional and excitable.
- Has many, and sometimes unusual, interests, hobbies, and collections.



- Is strongly motivated to do things that interest him/her in their own way.
- Has a very high energy level; seems to require very little sleep.
- Is sensitive to beauty and other people's feelings emotions, and expectations.
- Has a sophisticated sense of humor.
- Has an advanced sense of justice, morality, and fairness.
- Likes to be in charge.
- May prefer to play or interact with older children.



What is the

Gifted

The Pine
Gifted and
(GT)

Program?

Bluff
Talented
Program

is designed to provide an academically challenging education for highly motivated, academically gifted learners who perform or show the potential to perform at a remarkably high level of accomplishment when compared to other learners of the same age, experience or environment. Additionally, these learners will:

- Exhibit high performance capability in an intellectual, creative, or artistic area;
- Possesses an unusual capacity for leadership or
- Excel in a specific academic field (mathematics or language arts)

The Pine Bluff Gifted Program teaches students how to use higher-order thinking skills while learning about subjects that are not taught in the regular classroom setting. Identified gifted and talented students are provided with a qualitatively different school experience, which results from the gifted students' interactions with each other in an engaging and interactive GT classroom.

Currently, our pull-out program is housed at The Gifted and Talented Center in the Trice Building where we serve students from grades first through sixth who have been identified and placed. Our pull-out program during this past school year serviced about 195 children from four elementary schools in our district. This upcoming school year we will serve about 110 children from four elementary schools in Pine Bluff School District.

Mission Statement



The mission of the Gifted and Talented Program is to provide an educational environment for the identified GT students that will allow them to develop intellectually, socially, and emotionally. The goal of the Gifted and Talented Program is to identify the unique potential of each student and to provide the educational environment conducive to develop that potential.

Outstanding achievement or the potential for outstanding achievement of each student will be evidenced through an interaction of above average intellectual ability, task commitment, and creative ability. This will be determined by several different variables including objective and subjective tests with input from facilitators, teachers, parents and counselors when and where permissible. The goal for the identification procedures is to include all types of gifted students from all cultures and economic backgrounds, regardless of race, sex, or creed, who have a need for specialized services.

Appropriate educational opportunities for the identified students will be provided by facilitators who have met the state requirements and who have mastered and can utilize a variety of educational methodologies to assure a maximum growth in both the cognitive and affective domain of the student. The goal of the program is to provide a quality GT Program for those students whose learning characteristics and educational needs require a differentiated educational experience.



Philosophy of the Gifted and Talented Program

We believe that academically gifted students need a qualitatively different program to develop their intellectual and creative abilities to their full potential. We believe that this program is not about doing more or accelerating learning, but about developing the depth and breadth of thinking and learning.

The Pine Bluff School District Gifted Program emphasizes successful learning. We believe that gifted and talented children have a capacity to integrate concepts, content, ideas, and patterns from one discipline to another.

We provide a safe learning environment where students interact with their peers, teachers, and community to become life-long learners. By recognizing and appreciating one another's unique strengths and abilities, students' passion for

Identification of Gifted and Talented Students

reach their full potential.



Students are identified as gifted and talented from a student profile. The process begins with a principal, teacher, parent or self-referral. Achievement scores, intelligence tests and grade point averages are reviewed. Teachers rate the student in the following categories: learning, motivation, creativity and leadership. Creative/critical thinking tests and student-produced materials are used. In some instances, interviews are conducted. Many variables are used to establish a total profile of the student. Each student profile is reviewed by an identification committee composed of trained personnel in gifted education, and also certified school personnel.

Students may be considered for placement in the GT program throughout their school experiences. Reviews of students are conducted at the end of the school year.

Students are notified when they have been selected or not selected for the GT program. After the enrollment and health form is completed and signed by the student and parent, the student enters the program. Once students select an appropriate course, they will receive a revolve-in letter that will provide the date, time and information about the course they will be attending.

Students are monitored during the year, re-evaluated at the end of each year as updated scores are received. Students may stop attending GT upon written notice from the parent or a written notice is given to the parent from the director and committee members.



Identification Procedures

KEY FEATURES OF THE IDENTIFICATION PROCESS

The Pine Bluff School District's Gifted and Talented Program has identification processes and procedures that are fair and consistent, making every effort to include all special student populations. Students may be referred by their teacher, a peer, a parent, a community member or they may refer themselves.

Who is eligible for screening?

CogAt results within the last school year at or above the 99th percentile on Composite, Verbal, Quantitative, or Non-Verbal measures for K-2 students; at or above 96th percentile on Composite, Verbal Quantitative or Non-Verbal measures for 3-12 students

Students scoring advanced on the ACT Aspire Exam

Students scoring advanced on the STAR exam

Any student who is recommended for inclusion is eligible for screening

How is a student Referred?

Classroom teachers/Parents may choose to refer a student using a Gifted and Talented Referral Form.

Teachers/Parents rate the student on learning, motivation, creativity and leadership skills.

Students may self-refer themselves also by filling out a Gifted and Talented Referral Form and rating themselves on learning, motivation, creativity and leadership skills.

Other school personnel (e.g. counselor, principal, or librarian) may refer a student by completing a Gifted and Talented Referral Form on the student

Referrals may also come from any knowledgeable source (e.g. community, organization leaders etc.).

Pine Bluff Gifted and Talented Goals and Objectives

GOAL #1

To identify students with high potential who need a differentiated curriculum.

GOAL #2

To provide an environment promoting higher level thinking skills creative problem-solving skills and communication skills.

GOAL #3

To challenge students to reach their greatest potential.

GOAL #4

To inform parents, colleagues, community members and administrators about our program so that referred students will qualify for inclusion in the G/T classes.

GOAL #5

Use a variety of means to effectively evaluate and monitor the G/T program.

ASSESSMENT

The following areas are considered to determine placement:

- Academic ability
- Creativity
- Task motivation
- Additional data may be submitted or included:
 - Kingore Observation Score
 - Product evaluation
 - Other test scores
 - Interviews
 - Biographical data, grades, etc.



Many variables are used to establish a total profile of the student. Each student profile is reviewed by a screening committee which is composed of trained personnel in gifted education.

Students may be considered for placement in the GT Program throughout their school experiences. An individual student will be tested only once in any twelve month period.

Students are notified when they have been selected for the GT Program. After the student selects an appropriate course, the time schedule is arranged, and the student enters the program. Students receive a revolve-in letter with their class information. Students may stop attending GT upon written notice from the parent to the director or to the parent from the director.

The Pine Bluff School District GT Selection Committee works very hard to ensure that the selection of students that are identified as GT is equitable and as fair as possible. Students are compared on the basis of current scores on the same tests and qualitative measures of current academic performance. (Scores on other tests are not accepted.) The selection process does NOT consider school of origin, ethnicity or gender when identifying students for the GT Program.

Program Options



The Pine Bluff School District uses three program options in servicing the student population: Whole Group; Pull-Out Program; Honors and AP Program. Whole group instruction is provided for all kindergarten classes (30 minutes per session a week).

The Pull-out Program is housed at the Gifted and Talented Center in the Trice Building where we serve students from grades first through sixth that have been identified and placed. Students come once a week, Tuesday through Thursday for (150 minutes per session) one-half day classes, either AM or PM. The curriculum for grades first and second are pre-determined by the facilitators and the coordinator. Students in grades third, fourth, fifth, and sixth select from a menu of courses such as: *Chess, CSI, Destination ImagiNation, Quiz Bowl, Hands-On Equations, Cute Chemistry & Pretty Physics, Tech Toys, Cooking with Math, Building Our Future; Puppet Show, Robotics, GPS and me and Creative Nations. Classes may vary each year.*

The Honors and AP Program starts at seventh grade and serves the middle school, junior high school, and high school students. The Honors classes, grades 7-11, prepare students for AP classes at the high school in the areas of English, math, science, and social studies. Advanced Placement (AP) classes at grades tenth through twelfth prepare students for college. AP classes must be approved by College Board. Teachers who teach AP must submit a syllabus to College Board for approval to teach the course at their high school. Students must take the AP exam at the end of the course to receive weighted credit for the class.

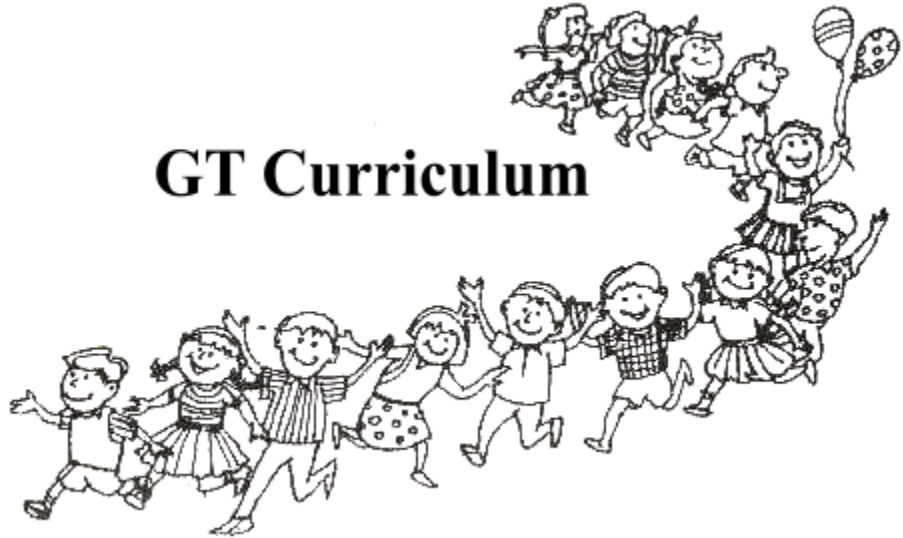
The Pine Bluff School District provides Honors and AP teachers with training opportunities throughout the school year, which helps us to meet gifted state standards that require all AP teachers receive College Board training before teaching an AP class. However, the state allows teachers who teach AP classes three (3) years to obtain their Interdisciplinary Strategies Certificate of Completion of College Board Training.

Kindergarten Curriculum



All kindergarten students in the Pine Bluff School District receive thirty minutes of enrichment each week. GT facilitators work on a rotating basis to visit all kindergarten classes. Kindergarten teachers are encouraged to mark observed student behaviors found on the Kingore Inventory (KOI) form during the remainder of the instructional week. GT facilitators work collaboratively with the kindergarten teachers to “talent spot.” On weeks in which the GT facilitator is not present in the kindergarten classroom, the regular kindergarten teacher has materials to extend enrichment lessons. The Kingore Observation Inventory is followed throughout the kindergarten year for potential identification of GT candidates as first graders. Testing is done in the spring and the committee meets and evaluates students for placement for the following fall.

GT Curriculum



The GT Program is designed to provide enriched education experiences which are not taught in the

regular classroom or which are not available at the particular grade level of the student. Gifted students have trained teachers who are sensitive to their needs, an interaction with gifted peers and a course content which extends learning beyond the basic curriculum.

The objective of the curriculum is to produce autonomous learners by providing hands-on experiences and self-discovery activities. The curriculum allows the student to develop critical and creative thinking abilities, aids the student in learning to communicate, negotiate, and interact with one another. The classroom activities aid the students in developing techniques which will maximize their ability to do research independently and move at an accelerated pace.

Gifted and Talented personnel provide enrichment to all kindergarten classes throughout the district. The Gifted and Talented personnel also provide instruction in a pull-out program to all eligible students in first through sixth grade. A predetermined curriculum is offered to the first and second grade students at the GT Center in the Trice Building. The students in the third, fourth, fifth and sixth grades also attend classes at the GT Center and choose curriculum by selecting their courses. These mini-courses may change throughout the year. Some of the courses offered at present include: Chess, Robotics, Quiz Bowl, and CSI to name a few.

Evaluation of the G/T Program



The purpose of the Pine Bluff School District's evaluation process is to provide accurate, timely, and relevant information, based on program goals and objectives to decision-makers for the chief purposes of improving program options and monitoring overall effectiveness.

Surveys and questionnaires are developed collaboratively and are based on the Arkansas Department of Education's standards for gifted and talented programs. Surveys are designed appropriately to the intended audience being polled. They are synchronized across grade levels and/or age groups to yield information pertinent to the standards.

Parents are given the opportunity to provide feedback on the program semi-annually, usually at Parent/Teacher Conferences. Communication with parents, teachers, counselors, community and school board members continue throughout the school year.

A part of the evaluation process includes quarterly student evaluations. Progress report data is viewed individually and collectively to analyze student growth. Student growth is evidence of program effectiveness and success.

Results are shared with teachers, school board and community members, students, parents, counselors and are placed in key locations accessible to the general public. An appropriate plan of action is developed collaboratively and implemented to address areas in need of change. An effective evaluation process requires constant monitoring and re-evaluation, with adjustments being made as necessary.

The Advisory Council for Gifted and Talented evaluates the program, as do counselors, home school teachers and administrators. The Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) evaluates each GT Program in the state each year and either approves or disapproves funding requests.



The Pine Bluff School District Gifted and Talented Program



- ☺ Positive relationships are formed between the GT Staff, family, the home school, and the community.

- ☺ Established identification procedures result in an identified GT population that mirrors the school and community populations.

- ☺ Bertie Kingore Curriculum (K0I - Kingore Observation Inventory) is used for identifying kindergarten students throughout the district.

- ☺ Elementary Curriculum Grades 1st-2nd: offer predetermined curriculum based on students' interest.

- ☺ 3rd-6th grade students select from a myriad of stimulating classes offered. Modifications are/will be made as necessary based on health and wellness issues that may arise due to current Covid-19 situations.

- ☺ Honors classes are offered for grades 7th through 12th.

- ☺ Challenging AP classes are offered for grades 10th through 12th.

- ☺ 12th Grade Endorsed Concurrent Enrollment Courses are also available through local universities.

- ☺ Competition teams are offered: Destination Imagination, Chess, and Quiz Bowl.

- ☺ Students are our number one priority!

GT CLASS PARTICIPATION



- ★ **Attendance.** We encourage both Virtual and Face to Face Students to attend their GT Class weekly!

The 2022-2023 GT Schedule is as Follows:

AM and PM				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Kindergarten	5th & 6th grade	3rd & 4th grade 5th & 6th grade	1st & 2nd grade 3rd & 4th grade	Planning & Support

**Full-Time Virtual Students- PBSB virtual students will be offered a choice of PBL projects that will extend over various lengths of time based on students' interest. These will be independently pursued, with weekly meetings with a GT Facilitator to discuss any issues and receive feedback and further guidance. Projects will include independent research to identify problems, improve and nurture both creative and critical problem solving abilities, and foster self-directed learning. Each project will contain both a research based and a project based aspect. If the district needs to pivot from on-site to remote learning, gifted services will continue uninterrupted. Students will interact with the Google Classroom activities and those classes will continue to be facilitated by PBSB Gifted staff.

- ★ **Responsibilities Before Leaving School.** It's your responsibility to get on the GT bus at the designated time that it arrives at your school. If you miss the bus, we can't come get you. (Your parent(s) can if they wish to). You will need to remind your teacher of your GT day. Do not go to the playground on your GT day. Go to your designated area where you are picked up.

- ★ **Required Services for GT Students.** The Gifted and Talented Program Approval Standard 8.05 requires that each Gifted and Talented Student receive a minimum of 150 minutes a week direct instruction. This requirement may not be altered or reduced by the regular home base teachers. It is important, therefore, that the regular classroom teacher not interrupt, impede or bar attendance at GT as punishment for such things as misbehavior in the regular classroom, or other general campus behavior.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE



It is necessary that children learn to develop self-discipline in order to further their learning. Please discuss with your child the need for good behavior and a good attitude. We will not tolerate fighting, disrespect toward others, obscene language, bullying or destruction of school property. An Assertive Discipline Plan will be given to each of our GT Parents at the beginning of each school year, which is the same plan that the Pine Bluff School District uses and enforces.

Any student who breaks the rules continuously will be sent to our GT Office. A letter will be sent to their parents, school principal and teacher about the misbehavior. Discipline for a severe act will be determined by the GT Coordinator and by the principal of the home school. Continued misbehavior may result in a student being dismissed from the GT Program indefinitely.

In-School Suspension. If you are in In-School Suspension at your home school, you will not be allowed to attend GT classes until you are placed back in your regular classroom.

GT does not usually give homework. However, during courses which require additional research or special projects, students may be asked to complete assignments away from the GT Center. For example, Quiz Bowl and Destination Imagination will require some outside time commitments.

If you miss work at your regular school when you are at GT, we suggest to your teacher to not hold you responsible for work that you have already done and understand.

The classroom teacher has the responsibility to explain any new concepts. Gifted students have the responsibility to demonstrate understanding of the concepts presented.

You are responsible for new lessons, assignments, and tests. Find a “study buddy” to get your work for you and write down your assignments. It is your responsibility to get your work done and to have arrangements with your teacher for getting your assignments while you are away at GT.

The GT Program maintains an open door policy with our parents. Due to COVID, Parents are encouraged to schedule an appointment to attend classes. The Gifted and Talented Center is located at 711 W 11th Ave in the Trice Building. At this time the Pine Bluff School District will follow CDC Guidance based on the categories for Jefferson County. Guidance may change from week to week depending on what category we are in at the time.

Categories for Jefferson County

Green - Masks will be optional

Yellow - Masks will be strongly recommended

Orange - Masks will be required indoors

PBSD encourages the continued practice of the 3-W's - Wearing Masks, Washing Hands, Watching Distance



PARENTS WE NEED YOU!!

**GET !
INVOLVED!**

We here at the Gifted and Talented Center in the Trice Building also have Parent Teacher Conferences! PLEASE come visit with us!!

We love getting to know our parents!

Parent Conferences are scheduled for the following dates:

- Tuesday, September 27, 2022
- Tuesday, February 21, 2023
- 2:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- 2:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

These conferences are held each year so that GT facilitators and parents may discuss the student's performance in the GT Program.

The GT Center may also send out newsletters during the year to keep parents informed of what's going on at the GT Center.

We now have the ability to text our parents about meetings and important information if we have your cell phone information. Please provide this information at the beginning of the school year so that you can be on our parent contact list. Parents may also join the PBSG GT Remind page to get information by using the following join code: @pbsdg.

Please call us at any time if you have questions or concerns or desire more information about our GT Program at (870) 543-4300 ext 271.



Arkansas for Gifted and Talented Education (AGATE) is a non-profit statewide organization of persons working together to promote excellence in education, particularly as it relates to the gifted and talented children and youth of Arkansas.

An AGATE affiliate chapter is an organized group of persons interested in promoting appropriate educational opportunities for gifted and talented children and youth. These are local community, school or school district groups who have formally joined with AGATE to support its efforts and share in the benefits of participating in a statewide network.

The Pine Bluff Affiliate of AGATE chapter was organized in 1993. Its members have helped to provide funds for supplies, materials, and consumable classroom items. It also provides funds for refreshments at Parents Meetings, AP Meetings, Destination ImagiNation and Quiz Bowl practices and Advisory Council Meetings. AGATE has also aided in the support of Destination ImagiNation traveling to Global Finals in Kansas City, MO.

GT Advisory Council



#139687510

Melissa Rice	Coordinator of Gifted Programs
Donna Shepherd Page	GT Facilitator
Andrea Little	Board Member
Sheryl Kearney	GT Facilitator, Retired
Ezerene Williams	GT Facilitator, Retired
Juanita Currie	PBSD Counselor, Retired
Kim West	PBSD Family & Community Engagement Coord
Toni Jasper	DI Team Manager
Teki Hunt-Jimenez	Community Volunteer
Keisha Higgins	GT Parent
Tamera Harvey	PBSD Classroom Teacher
Marisa Harris	GT Parent