

# GIFTED GAZETTE

## Ben Hill County Schools

### A Note from the Gifted Coordinator

Spring Gifted testing is wrapping up for the school year. Thank you to those who have been involved in the testing process. Thank you also to those teachers who have been flexible as students were pulled from your classes during this undertaking. You are appreciated!

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## BHCS Headlines



### Excited About Circuits at BHES

Students in Anna Branch's fifth grade class are excited to be learning about magnets and electromagnets as they create electric circuits. Students spent time making paper circuits using all components and then transferred that knowledge to real circuits using circuit board kits. Some students then created a complex circuit. Forming the basis of all electronic gadgets we use today, circuit boards are a great way to introduce project-based electronics to students.



[Circuit Boards for Students @ Amazon](#)



The students are the core of what we do, and I think it's critical that they are also able to be the corps, or body, of what we do. A gifted student wrote an essay for assignment at school, and she gave me permission to share her thoughts about being gifted here. Her essay was originally shared with me because she quoted me. I think her thoughts should be required reading for all teachers.

*From: The Gifted Guru*

## FEATURED GIFTED TEACHER

*Debbie Hamlin*



Debbie Hamlin received a Bachelor of Music Education with a major in Voice and a minor in Piano from Shorter College. She received her Reading Endorsement from Valdosta State University and her Gifted Endorsement from Coastal Plains RESA. Debbie is in her 32nd year at BHMS as Choral Director. She has also taught Music Appreciation, Reading, Informal Literacy, Accelerated Writing, and Journalism. She is a member of the National Association for Music Education and a member of the Georgia Music Educators Association where she has served as All-State Chorus Chair. Debbie serves as a Ben Hill County School System representative for PAGE. She is also a member of the Delta Kappa Gamma Professional Honor Society. Debbie has served as the Character Coach with the high school drama department for one-act plays and spring musicals. She was director of the one-act plays for FHS in 2016 and 2017. Debbie served as auxiliary coordinator for the FHS Marchin' Canes from 1991-1994. She has also served as a GHSA judge for Dramatic Interpretation, Girls' Trio, Men's Quartet, and One-Act Play competitions. She has served on various school committees: BHCS Music Department Chair, BHMS School Council, Leadership Team, Media Advisement, PBIS, SACS Accreditation, and Public Relations. Debbie supports BHMS as she serves as Club Coordinator, Yearbook sponsor, and co-advisor to TSA. She was the director of the very first TSA National Chorus. Debbie was the 2018-2019 BHMS Teacher of the Year.



## TAKE A LOOK

[Colonial Williamsburg](#)  
[The Great Wall of China](#)  
[The National Aviary](#)  
[National World War II Museum](#)  
[Philadelphia Museum of Art](#)  
[Pittsburg Zoo](#)  
[Yellowstone National Park](#)  
[Yosemite National Park](#)



## More BHCS Headlines



### Electronic Portfolios at FHSCCA

Students in Sabitha Menon's advanced math classes are using electronic portfolios to organize, document, and display some of their most significant learning in one digital space. The reflective learning process of creating and building a portfolio over time deepens the students' learning and yields a dynamic product that makes learning visible to a variety of audiences. The goal is for students to build a complete portfolio before graduating from high school. Students can add all subjects to the electronic portfolios over time and connect learning across courses. The portfolios can also help students plan their own academic pathways as they come to understand what they know and are able to do and what they still need to learn.





[storycubes.com](http://storycubes.com)



In 2004, Rory O'Connor realized how much the simplest images could spark the imagination. That's when he had an idea: use those images to create and invent stories. Quickly, that idea turned into a game, and that game turned into dice covered symbols. And so...they were named, Rory's Story Cubes. Their role? To act as a compass to invent the craziest and most wonderful stories. Rory's Story Cubes is a game that offers a key to finding inspiration, to take one step further in narration, and experience wonderful moments while playing.

## DID YOU KNOW?

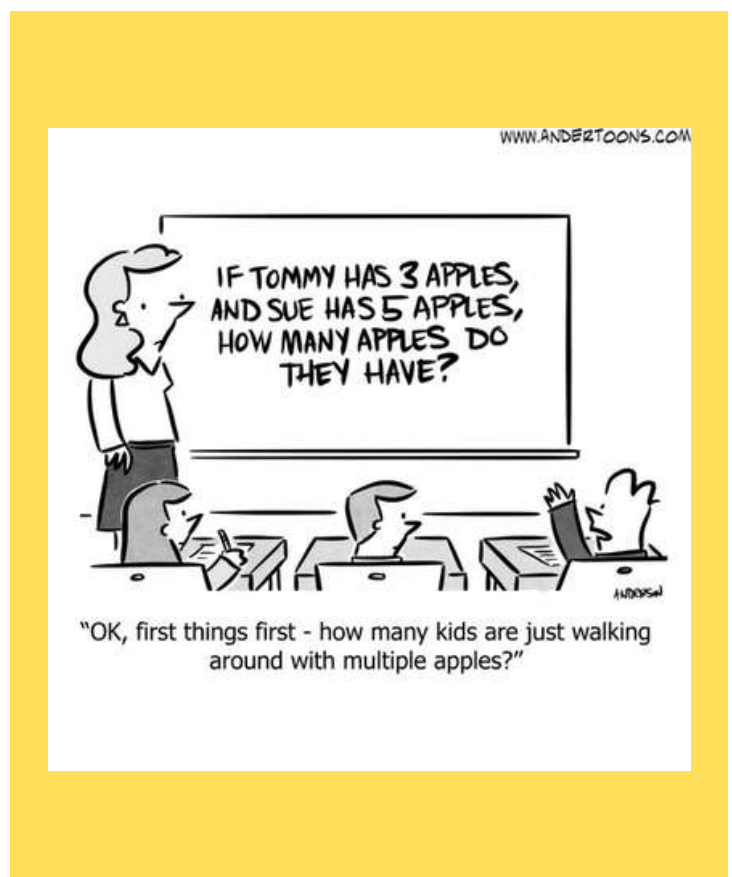
*Many times, gifted students have a keen sense of observation. They are curious and analytical, and often notice things you may not have. That skill can manifest in a number of ways, from sensing slight changes in room temperature to being able to tell how another person is feeling.*

## Why You Should Not Use Gifted Students as Tutors

by Lisa Van Gemert

Gifted students should not be used as tutors for other students as standard practice. This should not be a controversial statement, and yet somehow it is. Gifted children should not be used as short little mini-teachers for other students for a number of reasons, not the least of which is they're not good at it. Even if someone is unconcerned with what is fair or best for the gifted child him- or herself, the gifted child is not the ideal tutor.

[Read the full article.](#)



## More BHCS Headlines



### Monsters at Ben Hill Elementary School?

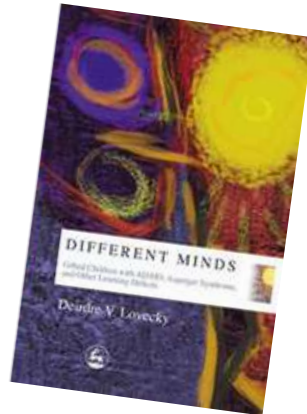
Students in Emily Johnson's 5th grade class created simile monsters as they learned about figurative language. Figurative language is a way of expressing oneself that does not use a word's realistic meaning. Figurative language is usually used to add creativity to written or spoken language. Example: "that news hit me like a ton of bricks."



*Our job is to teach the students we have, not the ones we would like to have, not the ones we used to have, those we have right now.  
All of them.*

*-Dr. Kevin Maxwell*

## GREAT READ



*Different Minds: Gifted Children with AD/HD, Asperger Syndrome, and Other Learning Deficits*  
by Deirdre V. Loveky, Ph.D.

Available at [Barrington Books](#) and [amazon.com](#)



## FOR GIFTED STUDENTS

If a child attends resource rooms, communicate with the specialists for suggestions on how to enrich daily classwork. Avoid penalizing the child for special class attendance.

## CHECK IT OUT!



OLOGY is the science website for kids from the American Museum of Natural History. OLOGY can be used to engage students in standards-aligned online content.



[amnh.org/explore/ology](https://amnh.org/explore/ology)

### Perfectionism: Helping Handout for School and Home

by Nicholas W. Affrunti



Perfectionism means that students set high, rigid standards and often feel upset when those standards are not met. Sometimes this trait can be healthy and help students achieve their goals and perform well in school and other activities. Other times perfectionism can be unhealthy and cause students to become too critical of themselves and others and to have meltdowns over small mistakes. It can even lead to mental health difficulties such as anxiety and depression.

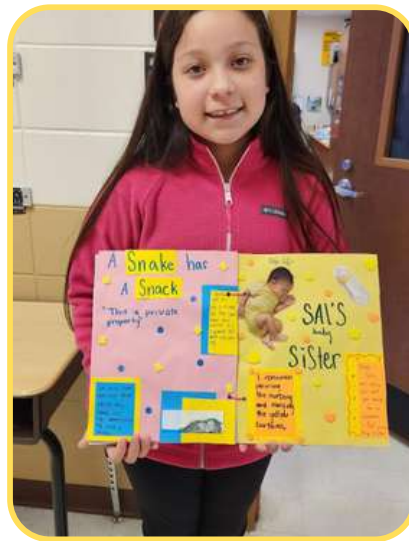
[Read full article.](#)

## More BHCS Headlines



### Walk Two Moons

*Walk Two Moons* is a novel by Sharon Creech and won the Newbery Medal in 1995 and became an American children's classic. The novel tells of one family's adventure-filled move from the city to rural Maine, and an unexpected bond between one girl and a very ornery cow. BHES student's in Emily Johnson 5th grade class completed end of book projects.



### BHMS Future Problem Solvers Update

Ben Hill Middle School began the Future Problem Solvers Program this school year.

FPSPI is a program that encourages critical and creative thinking skills and encourages students to develop a vision for the future. The projects that began this year include school picnic areas, a community garden, and weekly breaks. These will be extended into the 2023-2024 school year. Groups are researching, filming, and preparing for public speaking. The plan for the 2023-2024 school year is to have six active Future Problem Solving classes.

To find out more about Future Problem Solvers (FPSPI), please contact Christopher Swords at [christopher.swords@benhillschools.org](mailto:christopher.swords@benhillschools.org) or Susan Henry at [susan.henry@benhillschools.org](mailto:susan.henry@benhillschools.org).

