MISSION STATEMENT

Definition

Cleveland County Schools supports the definition used by the United States Office of Education and adopted by Public Schools of North Carolina to identify a student in need of differentiated services as an academically gifted student. The definition indicates the following:

- Gifted children and youth perform, or show potential for performing at remarkably high levels of accomplishment when compared with others of their age, experience, or environment.
- These children and youth exhibit high performance capability in intellectual areas and/or specific academic fields.
- These students require differentiated educational services beyond those ordinarily provided by the regular education program.
- Outstanding abilities are present in children and youth from all cultural groups, across all economic strata, and in all areas of human endeavor.

Rational and Gifted Development

The educators of Cleveland County Schools believe that all students have the potential to learn and deserve the opportunity to develop academically to their maximum potential. Highly capable students learn at fast rates, perform at higher levels, and possess their own unique characteristics. Students with outstanding abilities are found in all cultural groups and at all economic levels. These students need a differentiated curriculum which allows them the opportunity to reach their potential. The intent of Cleveland County Schools is to facilitate the development of these students' abilities by supporting excellence in all educational programs. We believe that professional development and collaboration among teachers, parents, administrators, and community members is necessary to meet the learning needs of gifted students. We believe we must prepare our children and youth to be continuous, independent learners as global citizens in the 21st century.