

August 5, 2022

Dear Gifted and Talented Students and Parents,

I am happy to welcome you back to the 2022-23 school year! I am so excited and looking forward to a productive partnership with you to ensure that our gifted learners continue to soar to their highest potential! This is my second year at Fickett ES, and I can't wait to share all the adventures and explorations we will be experiencing this school year. For those new to the program, I would like to take this opportunity to tell you a little about myself and share some key information about our program.

I graduated from North Carolina A&T State University in 1990, with a degree in Early Childhood Education. I moved to the suburbs of Atlanta, Georgia in 2004 and accepted an elementary teaching position in the Cobb County School District. In 2010, I earned both my master's degree and gifted certification and began immediately serving Gifted and Talented students in Cobb County. In 2014, I enrolled in a doctoral program at Grand Canyon University where I focused my research on bridging the gap between neuroscience and education. I completed my doctoral studies in the fall of 2018, making me now the most current expert in the field of brain-based learning. As you can see, I have a lifelong love for learning which I hope to pass on to your children.

I am beyond excited to start this new school year with you. I have always been passionate about helping my most advanced students explore the heights of their potential. I will be working multiple days a week via collaboration and with small groups of identified gifted students in grades K-5 and larger groups of talent and development. They will have opportunities to challenge themselves through interest-driven projects, field trips, and learning experiences that go beyond the scope of their grade-level curriculum. In addition, I will be partnering with their regular classroom teachers to ensure that their needs continue to be met throughout their school day.

As we begin this journey together, I hope that we can be partners in providing the best possible education for your child. I am driven by the overall well-being of my students and will always be their advocate and ally. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time. I will usually respond quickly via email (phyllis.harris@atlanta.k12.ga.us). If there is anything I can do for you or if you have any questions, please let me know.

Let's have an awesome school year!!

Sincerely,

Dr. Phyllis Harris

Gifted Instructional Specialist | Fickett Elementary School

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