



July 31, 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome or welcome back to the Gifted & Talented Program at Toomer! I am very excited to begin working with such a wonderful group of bright and motivated students. There is so much I'm looking forward to this year. It's going to be a year full of fun learning!

Toomer will continue to utilize the Collaborative Model to serve Gifted & Talented students. As an IB school we are required to transition to an approved Gifted Delivery Model that aligns with the PYP (Primary Years Program) standards and practices. PYP students use their initiative to take responsibility and ownership of their learning. By learning through inquiry and reflecting on their own learning, PYP students develop knowledge, conceptual understanding, skills and attributes of the IB Learner Profile to make a difference in their lives, their communities and beyond.

In utilizing the Collaborative Model this means that no students will be pulled out of their classroom to receive Gifted services. At Toomer, students' needs for academic curiosity and autonomy, increased rigor, and faster paced instruction will be met throughout the day in their classrooms. Teachers are required to differentiate their instruction to meet the needs of all students. I will be planning with teachers weekly to ensure that students are challenged in ways that are appropriate to their abilities. Collaboration between myself and teachers will be essential to our programming.

There will be some new systems in our Gifted Program this year and I look forward to sharing them with you at our Curriculum Night and answering any questions you may have.

As we begin or continue 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 need to contact me for any reason, I can be reached at the email below. I look forward to a wonderful and productive year with you and your child.

Sincerely,

**Ursula Borland**

Gifted Lead Teacher

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