

Gifted & Talented Students and Parents:

Welcome back to a new year at Benjamin E. Mays High School. We are excited to have such a group of bright, motivated young people among our student body. This school year, the Gifted & Talented (GATE) program at Mays High will be overseen by Dr. LaShonda Parker and a team of gifted-certified teachers. We will collaborate with your teachers to ensure that you are challenged in ways that are appropriate to your abilities.

At Benjamin E. Mays High School, the primary delivery model is service through Advanced Content, which includes Advanced Placement (AP) and/or International Baccalaureate (IB) courses. Teachers of AP/IB courses are trained by the College Board and/or International Baccalaureate and have professional development in the characteristics of and curriculum design for gifted learners. Some students receive their gifted service through the Collaborative Model; a general education teacher collaborates with a gifted-endorsed teacher to serve students through their content area of strength: Language Arts, Social Studies, Science, and/or Math. Through this collaboration, the content is differentiated to challenge the gifted student. Advanced content, gifted courses, and collaboration meet the requirements of the [Georgia Board Rule 160-4-2-.38](#).

In addition to traditional classroom instruction, Gifted & Talented students also have the opportunity to stretch themselves intellectually through projects and extracurricular activities. Gifted & Talented students are strongly encouraged to complete an Academic Fair project in Math, Science, Social Studies, or Technology.

Dr. Parker will be available via email to answer any questions that you might have about the Gifted & Talented Program at Benjamin E. Mays High School. You may also see the answers to *Gifted and Talented Education in High School Frequently Asked Questions* on our website and attached. For more immediate concerns, please feel free to email us at any time.

If your child is not currently identified as Gifted & Talented, and you would like them to be tested this school year, the parent referral period is the beginning of school through the end of September. Please see the *Screening and Referral Frequently Asked Questions* on our website.

Thank you,
Dr. LaShonda Parker