

August 1, 2024

Dear Gifted and Talented Students and Parents,

Welcome to a year of **“Spectrum Opportunities Through Reflective Masterpieces”** at Barack & Michelle Obama Academy! I am so excited and looking forward to meeting my talented learners and their parents! This is year three at BaMO, and 20+ years of teaching gifted instruction and talent development. For those that are 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.

I am beyond excited to start this new school year! 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 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 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 **2024-2025** school year 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. For additional information on Gifted Services or FAQ’s please visit the following website: <https://www.atlantapublicschools.us/Page/21037>

Let’s have an awesome school year!!

Sincerely,

Dr. Phyllis Harris

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