

August 22, 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope the 2023-2024 school year is off to a great start for your child(ren). You may be wondering, “How will my gifted child be served this year?” Per APS policy, elementary schools within the district currently employ one or more of three state-approved delivery models: 1) The Resource Model, which serves gifted students through a gifted-endorsed teacher in an interdisciplinary-enriched environment once or more per week, 2) The Collaboration Model, which serves gifted students daily in their homeroom classroom through targeted instructional collaboration between the homeroom content-certified teacher and gifted-endorsed teacher, and 3) The Cluster Grouping Model, which serves gifted students daily in a homeroom where the teacher is content certified and gifted-endorsed.

Currently, all gifted students at E. Rivers will receive services via the Cluster or Collaboration Models. These are the only approved models that align with the International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme. Please be assured that Mr. Hulsing (IB PYP Coordinator) and I will work closely with all homeroom teachers to bring in meaningful project-based learning and thought-provoking activities related to and beyond grade-level content. It is our intent to tap into your child’s “giftedness” and extend the learning in his/her classroom.

Additionally, during the intervention/extension block known as WIN, your child will be assigned to a gifted endorsed teacher. This block will meet four times per week for thirty minutes each day which will allow your child to experience extension activities and tasks that include creativity, critical thinking, problem solving, and personal reflection skills.

Thank you in advance for your support. I hope you are as excited about this year as I am. If you ever need to contact me, please feel free to reach out using the information below:

E-Mail: cbenner@atlanta.k12.ga.us

Phone: 404-802-7072

Sincerely,

Courtney Benner