



July 31, 2023

Dear Parents,

Welcome or welcome back to the Gifted and Talented Program at Toomer! I am very excited to work with such a large group of bright, motivated young people among our student body. I will collaborate with teachers to ensure that students are challenged in ways that are appropriate to their abilities.

This year at Toomer we will be utilizing a fully Collaborative Model to serve the Gifted and 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 understandings, skills and the attributes of the IB Learner profile to make a difference in their own 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 at Toomer are required to differentiate their instruction to meet the needs not only of the Gifted and Talented students but all students on their rosters. I will be planning with teachers weekly to ensure the quality and appropriateness of differentiation for Gifted and Talented students.

You can look forward to more information at Curriculum Night and answering any questions you may have about the Gifted and Talented Program.

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 have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me (ursula.borland@atlanta.k12.ga.us). I look forward to a wonderful and productive year with you and your child.

Sincerely,

Ursula Borland
Gifted Lead Teacher