



Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to Sylvan Hills Middle School's Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) for the 2023-2024 school year! We are excited to welcome you back for another great year of teaching and learning in EXCELLENCE! Our theme for this year is ***"Making Connections: Past, Present, & Future."***

We have innumerable lessons and activities planned for this school year that will incorporate cross disciplinary studies as mandated by the Georgia Standards of Excellence. In addition, we will focus on and include assignments and activities that touch on the eight Gifted and Talented Program Standards: Advanced Communication Skills, Creativity, Creative Problem Solving, Global Citizenship, Higher Order Thinking Skills, Leadership, Advanced Research Skills, and Social Emotional Learning.

We are excited to kick off the school year with a selection of great mind bending activities already planned for our students to begin "thinking outside of the box." In addition to taking a deeper dive into the units of study, we will spend time providing activities that are meant to enhance, enrich, engage, and accelerate student learning! These include brain boosters, rebus puzzles, word trivia, and more! These activities will challenge minds and grow mindsets.

Atlanta Public Schools are moving forward with the implementation of the STEM/STEAM initiative. Because of this, our goal at Sylvan Hills Middle School is to infuse our GATE program with mini lessons that include discussions of current events happening in our community and around the world. To hone in on specific gifts and talents, our students are encouraged to participate in age appropriate contests such as the Academic Bowl, Science Fair, Technology Fair, Writing Contests, Picture Bowl, and the Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl.

At Sylvan Hills Middle School, many of our activities are self-paced and student-directed. Our GATE learning format is a combined pull-out resource and collaboration model. This model allows students to spend up to 5- segments/week interacting with their intellectual peers while being taught by a gifted certified teacher.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email me, Ms. Ruth, your GATE Lead Teacher at Kiara.Ruth@apsk12.org. I may also be reached via phone at (470) 868-5102. Please leave a message and allow up to 24 hours for a response. Additional information regarding testing and other GATE FAQs are located on Sylvan Hills Middle School's web page <https://www.atlantapublicschools.us/sylvan>.

We look forward to a great learning experience! Thank you in advance for your cooperation and support during this school year!

Sincerely,
Ms. Kiara Ruth,
GATE Lead