



Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to Perkerson Elementary's Gifted and Talent Development Education (GATE) 2023-2024 school year! We are excited to welcome you back for another wonderful 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 term that will incorporate cross disciplines in all areas of studies as mandated by the Georgia Standards of Excellence. In addition, we will focus 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 Perkerson Elementary is to infuse our GATE program with mini lessons that include discussions of current events happening in our community and around the world. To sharpen and focus on specific gifts and talents, we encourage students to participate in age-appropriate contests such as the Science Fair, Technology Fair, Writing Contests, Picture Bowl, and the Helen Ruffin Bowl.

At Perkerson Elementary, many 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 learning from a gifted certified teacher.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email me Dr. Love, your GATE Lead Teacher at [renee.love@apsk12.org](mailto:renee.love@apsk12.org). You may also contact via phone at (404) 802-3950. Please leave a message and allow up to 24 hours for a response. Additional information regarding testing and other GATE FAQ's are located on Perkerson Elementary School's web page (<https://www.atlantapublicschools.us/perkerson>).

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

Sincerely,  
Dr. Renee' Love,  
GATE Lead Teacher