

SOAR



August 8, 2016

Dear Families,

Welcome to a new year of the SOAR gifted education program at Drew Charter School! There are 136 students in the program and we are glad to have you as part of our community. Our learning environment will continue to challenge and motivate students as we work to build skills that meet and exceed state, national, and gifted education standards.

Mrs. Chang and I have a wonderful group of gifted endorsed instructors working with us to ensure the academic success of our students. This includes Mrs. Watkins, Ms. Davis, and Mrs. Lee (Pre-K); Ms. Bradley (Kindergarten); Ms. Swann and Ms. Cone (2nd grade); Mrs. Jenkins-Jones, Ms. Jones, Ms. Ford, and Mr. Buckley (3rd grade); Mrs. Edwards (4th grade); Ms. Hurt (5th grade); Ms. Ellis (Spanish); Mrs. Stephen (Literacy Coach); Mrs. Hollis (Math Support), and Ms. Britt (Technology). This team of gifted teachers will support the other teachers in the building to promote quality differentiation for all students.

First, 2nd, and 3rd graders will be served by Mrs. Chang using the resource model where students receive instruction to enhance and enrich the core curriculum. Schedules are created by grade level and group size. Units of study include: The Ocean – 1st, Ancient Egypt – 2nd, and Designing Games – 3rd. Mrs. Chang will also develop creativity, logical and higher level thinking, and problem solving skills among the students.

Students in 4th and 5th grade will be served in their Math and English/Language Arts classes. These classes will cover the Common Core/Georgia Standards of Excellence (www.georgiastandards.org/Georgia-Standards), and will be enriched with the Redbird Advanced Learning Curriculum (www.redbirdlearning.com), other curriculum guides designed for gifted learners, and collaboration with our STEAM colleagues. Student schedules are determined by a.) the academic area which originally helped them qualify for gifted services, b.) class performance, c.) current test data including ITBS and MAP, and d.) number of students and peer groups per class. I will work with 4th and 5th grade students in math, and Mrs. Edwards (4th) and Ms. Hurt (5th) will work with students in ELA. Students who are with Ms. Mitchell or Mrs. Strain for ELA, or Mr. Thompson, Mr. Holloway, or Ms. Coyne for Math will receive gifted instruction through collaboration to ensure that students are challenged in ways appropriate to their abilities.

As the year progresses, we hope each child enjoys the experiences provided in school and is inspired to be a life-long learner outside of school. You may contact me with questions, concerns, interests, and good news at (404) 687-0001, ext. 2246 or sherique.ransby@drewcharterschool.org. Mrs. Chang can be reached at ext. 2247 or jere.chang@drewcharterschool.org. Together, we can elevate the standards of education, creating positive differences in our world and making significant contributions to our society. As our principal, Monishae O'Neill would say, “#bestyearever”!

Educationally yours,

Sherique Ransby

Gifted Education Coordinator