



# GIFTED AND TALENT DEVELOPMENT

**Dear parents and guardians,**

As we begin this new journey, remember the words of Henry Ford: "Whether you think you can, or you think you can't—you're right." This year, we are all about setting goals and achieving them. Are you ready to dive into a year filled with incredible learning experiences? What new challenges are you excited to conquer? This year, we are thrilled to announce that Parkside's Gifted and Talented Development Program will be supported by Dr. Erica Donerlson and Ms. Katie Schuessler. We will provide services to grades 1st-5th using a 2-way rotation model. Welcome Ms. Schuessler to our Panda family!

**AS A STUDENT  
IN OUR PROGRAM,  
WE ASK THAT  
YOU COME  
PREPARED TO:**

- 1. SET AND PURSUE  
MEANINGFUL  
GOALS.**
- 2. TAKE OWNERSHIP  
OF YOUR  
LEARNING.**
- 3. EMBRACE  
CHALLENGES  
WITH A  
POSITIVE  
ATTITUDE.**
- 4. COLLABORATE  
EFFECTIVELY  
WITH PEERS  
AND TEACHERS.**
- 5. CONTINUOUSLY  
REFLECT ON  
YOUR GROWTH.**



In our International Baccalaureate (IB) environment, we will be using the collaborative model to support our gifted and talented students. Collaboration means working together to achieve common goals, where everyone's ideas and contributions are valued. In addition to our gifted lead teachers working alongside homeroom teachers, students will also have weekly sessions with Dr. Donerlson and Ms. Schuessler on their personalized learning days. During these days, students will engage in critical and creative thinking, and explore unit studies that will challenge and inspire them.

We will begin services for our gifted and talent development/2nd look students the week of August 5th. Please remember that students will not need to purchase supplies for the year—Parkside's PTA has generously provided our gifted program with all the essential tools needed for learning. We will continuously communicate with you via email and letters home, so please provide us with any updated contact information.

We are excited for the incredible learning, exploring, and growing that awaits us this year. Let's reach for the **GOLD!**

Sincerely,

Dr. Donerlson and Ms. Schuessler