

July 9, 2018

Greetings, Jean Childs Young Middle School Families!

I hope this letter finds you enjoying the summer. It is hard to believe that in just a few short weeks, **on August 1, students will be returning to school.** To ensure everyone feels prepared to return to school ready for a great year ahead, I wanted to reach out to both introduce myself to you and give you some tips and reminders for a successful back-to-school.

First, I thank you for welcoming me to the Young Middle School and Mays Cluster families as your new principal. I am coming to you after being a principal in Atlanta Public Schools for the past four years at Morris Brandon Elementary School and, prior to that, serving as the Assistant Principal at Sylvan Hills Middle School. I have also worked at the district level supporting the middle schools in the district (even supporting Young 8 years ago!), served as a Middle School Director of Studies and taught middle school ELA for 10 years.

I will use all of this experience to work with our faculty, students, and families to create a new movement at Young MS where we truly create a safe, rigorous, and engaging learning environment that supports every student and prepares each child to be immediately successful when transitioning to high school.

As you prepare for the return to school, please note the following:

Rising 6th Grade Students:

All 6th grade students must register by completing a full registration packet and providing all required documentation noted in the enclosure included in this mailing. Every student should be registered BEFORE August 1 so that they have a schedule created and can go straight to class on Day One. **Please help us start school on time on August 1 by registering ASAP and definitely BEFORE AUGUST 1.** To register, gather your paperwork, come to the school, and we will walk you through the process and provide all needed forms and notarization.

Uniforms and School Supplies:

Included in this mailing is information about school uniforms and school supplies. **WE ARE A UNIFORM SCHOOL and wearing the school uniform is a REQUIREMENT that will be enforced daily in all grades.** The school uniform greatly assists in the orderly operation of the school. Free dress days will be awarded to students who follow our school wide essential agreements at various times throughout the year and will be communicated as they occur. Please see the enclosed flyer for specific information on the correct uniform for your child's grade level as well as the needed school supplies. Uniform shirts will be available for sale at the school by the end of July. We will communicate via text message/robo call when they are available.

Connections Classes:

This year we will offer the following courses as yearlong courses:

Art	Dance	Band	Orchestra
Chorus		French	Spanish

Yearlong courses are a good choice for students who wish to experience a more rigorous and in depth study and practice of any of the areas above. Students who successfully complete yearlong courses in the performing arts will perform at events throughout the year. Those successfully completing yearlong World Language classes will be prepared for advanced High School World Language courses upon completion. Students who take yearlong Art should be those students with an interest in developing their Art skills at a more technical level.

Please discuss these offerings with your child. **If you would like your child scheduled into a yearlong course, please complete the form enclosed in this mailing and return it to the school BEFORE AUGUST 1 either by mail or dropping it off.**

School Year Priorities:

This year we are focused on two school wide priorities:

1. Creating and implementing a school wide framework for Tier 1 instruction that engages every student in rigorous instruction across grade levels and content areas.
2. Implementing a consistent approach to the social and emotional needs of our students grounded in restorative practices and clear expectations and accountability.

As we work on these priorities, some things you will notice are that we will continue to have Gifted Advanced Content classes for Gifted identified and high achieving students, that we are adding Honors level classes for students who may not qualify for the Gifted Advanced Content but who are ready for a faster-paced instructional approach with access to extensions of content, and that we will start every day in Power Hour which will include Social Emotional Learning activities and Reading support or extension activities every day for every child. Additionally, you will see that we will be proactively involving every child in goal-setting and progress monitoring of their work towards achieving their goals. We are committed to routinely sharing their goals and progress with you.

Finally, to stay informed, I urge you to sign up to receive direct text message updates from me. To do so, text the message @jcywolf to the number 81010. You will receive an automated message back to confirm that you are signed up to receive these updates.

Enjoy the rest of your summer! Thank you in advance for supporting our work at Young this year, and if we can answer any questions or be of any assistance before August 1, please feel free to reach out or visit us at the school.

Sincerely,
Kara Stimpson
Principal

Yearlong Connections Course Request Form

Complete and return this form **ONLY** if your child wishes to take a yearlong course. Yearlong courses do require a commitment to the course for the entire school year.

Student Name: _____ **Grade:** _____

Circle which yearlong course you are interested in taking and rank them in order of 1st to last choice by writing a number starting with 1 on the line beside the course.

Art _____

Dance _____

Band _____

Orchestra _____

Chorus _____

French _____

Spanish _____