



Happy New Year and welcome to second Semester. January is always about fresh beginnings and positive change. I love the promise of the New Year and all the possibilities that exist for our children here at Conyers Middle School. A dear friend of mine once reminded me that if the caterpillar/worm knew that it was going to be a butterfly, it would marvel at its potential! Jim Rohn once said, "Your life does not get better by chance, it gets better by change." Hence the opportunity—feel the beauty!

This semester we welcome many new learners and hope their first week has been a positive experience as they meet new friends and teachers. We also welcome new teaching colleagues in our seventh grade science department. Mrs. Evans and Mrs. Dukes will provide incredible science experiences for our students. Mrs. Gilmore will add historical value to our social studies department. Mr. Johnson will help our students refocus as he leads our ISS department.

I want you to know that our school actions exemplify our Strive to Thrive. Through our INTERACT club, angel tree donors, AVID Scholars, and PRO CUTTERS LAWNSCAPES, CMS was able to donate canned goods and nonperishable items, socks for the homeless, loads of gifts for some of our students in need, and were the recipients of a generous monetary donation for our mentor program from Pro Cutters Lawnscares. It takes a village! Our village gives us the victory! THANK YOU!

As we prepare for the positive energy, excitement, and excellence that 2017 will bring, we want to encourage you to have your child start, maintain, and finish the second semester with strength and solidarity to being significant and successful. As evidenced by the speed of the calendar, time moves quickly so we want to be good stewards of time by committing to good study habits, consistent communication with our teaching staff, advocacy for productive friendships and effective work habits. In our "Strive to Thrive," we continually remind our students to be respectful, responsible, and safe in all interactions with all students, staff, and visitors at CMS. Please stay daily involved in your children's relationships with their peers and with social media. Now, more than ever, do we need to stay in their "business" and remain visible in their lives so that they continually THRIVE!

On January 10th, we will deep dive into a review of our school's data and engage with you on some best practices to help your child. We will host our first semester honors day on Thursday, January 19th. Please come out and help us celebrate and encourage the success of our families and students.

We continue to keep the safety of our students a priority. Thank-you for your support with our safety measures. Remember, parents/visitors, must sign-in at the front office, show your id, and wear a visitor's badge at all times while on our campus. Our walkers and car riders must enter through Door #4 from the car rider lane. Students cannot enter the building before 8:15. As the weather turns colder, please do not compromise your child's warmth or safety by dropping him/her off before this time. For families who need to attend work/appointments at an earlier time than 8:15, please consider school-sponsored transportation. As we continue to ignite innovation and learning, I want to remind you of our early dismissal practice. Please try to schedule all appointments for after school; for those who must check out early, please understand that student checkout requests after 3:30 will not be honored. In school, on time--every day--all day--engaged in learning, is our aim.

Please continue to share your feedback with us. Advance thanks for accessing our website and taking our parent survey. Your feedback helps us grow and provides positive points for our CCRPI score. As we forge into the genesis of this New Year, let's move forward with passion, compassion, and purpose!

Here's to the best year ever!

~Allison