

Dec 2016

Season's Greetings CMS Families,

The season of joy, hope, and peace is upon us. It indeed has been a pleasure to work with your child and family during this first semester. We are excited about what second semester and 2017 will bring. We look forward to expanded opportunities to engage and connect with you. As has been customarily to our parent participation in our athletic events, we are pleading to have standing-room only in our Parent University classes, academic showcase events, parent support classes, conferences, concerts, carnivals, and more. It will take the concerted efforts of us all for our school to truly realize the power of progress that our scholars will experience when we all demonstrate an "all in/all win" attitude.

As we approach the end of this year, we reflect with pride and purpose about the accomplishments of our students, staff, and families. Teaching and learning continue to be the hallmark of our focus. Each content area and connections class has been customized to provide a collaborative and innovative learning experience for your child. Digital learning has taken a grand stand and is helping to make learning more efficient and effective. As a result of the vision of our Superintendent and our RCPS Board of Education, every CMS student was provided a laptop. Some of our learners have embraced learning with an awesome approach as they have maintained consistency with completing all assignments, studying for exams, demonstrating respect, responsibility, and safety in all of their interactions. To these students, we say THANK YOU and KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK! A few of our learners have been a bit more reluctant in their consistency in demonstrating high levels of academic/behavioral excellence, but have committed to trying harder to accomplish what is well. To those students, we say "We believe in you, keep pushing for excellence" Success for ALL is the destination of our desire. The skills necessary for 21<sup>st</sup> learning and the common language used to articulate and foster these values will be the check points along the way as we measure our success. Through the venues of daily instruction, formative assessments, benchmark exams, performance based tasks, clubs, activities, and athletic opportunities, our bulldogs are making gains, but the presence for better is our fuel. Our final exams and benchmark assessments will take place the week of December 12<sup>th</sup>. Please encourage your child to study hard to accomplish his/her personal best. We always strive to thrive!

Many of you have participated in our charitable initiatives and have donated canned goods to support our Interact Club's generosity, have donated socks for our AVID's, "Heat for Feet" campaign, have selected an angel from our Angel Tree, have donated lunch money to help feed some of our students, and have volunteered your time to help tutor and mentor students, monitor cafeteria, and lighten the heavy loads of our teachers and staff. Community churches have donated coats, turkeys, food, counseling, and other resources to be a part of the village it takes to raise a child. Your time, talent, and treasure are greatly appreciated. YOU ARE AMAZING! THANK YOU!

I would like to wish our students, our parents, our staff and the community the very best this season brings and a celebration filled with joy and family. I count it an overflowing blessing to be granted this opportunity to serve with you. From my heart to yours, happy holidays and may your best days be in front of you!

Merrily,

Allison,