

June 25, 2009

Dear Parents of Students of the 2009/10 school year:

As we are closing the 2008/2009 school year, we celebrate our accomplishments and plan for the challenges ahead. As parents who have been with us this year, you celebrated and felt pride in your child's learning as demonstrated throughout the year and at the end-of-year exhibition. If you are new to The Stadium School, you can see examples of students' exhibitions on The Stadium School's website, www.stadiumschool.com.

We invite you to join us in partnership to work towards creating the finest learning environment in Baltimore! You have likely applied to our school because of our reputation as an institution that promotes the acquisition of skills and knowledge within the school and prepares children to be productive members of the real world community. As a project based learning environment, our children have the opportunity to develop their skills in a variety of arenas, such as Urban Debate, the Zoo Exchange, National Academic League, Youth Dreamers, and many more. Many of you might know that our Urban Debate Team is the #1 Middle School Debate Team in Baltimore City and has been for the last 2 years! Of our 8th grade graduates, this year and in years past, 70% of our students have obtained city-wide placements e.g. City, Poly, Dunbar, Western High School, etc. In addition to our many students going to city wide schools, a number of our students are going to private high schools, many of them on scholarships. We are very proud of our accomplishments.

We are proud to see that 77.4% of our students have scored at the proficient or advanced level for the MSA Reading Test and 70.9% scored at proficient or advanced in MSA Math! This is up from 73% and 49.8% in 07-08!

For the 2008-09 school year, we began new initiatives to support us. Just to mention a few, Ms. Barnett, our Instructional Support Teacher, has worked with our teachers around supporting the math programming and analyzing student data in order to push our students even further with math achievement. We also implemented extended school day programming, Towson University math tutor program, increased math and reading instructional time, and increased reading and math basics skills instruction. Our 8th graders alone were receiving no less than 140 minutes of math each day. These initiatives have paid off as 85.3% of our 8th graders have tested at the Proficient or Advanced Level in Math and 83.3% as Proficient or Advanced in Reading! MSA rankings have just been released and TSS students are scoring on par with the top performing students and schools around the city. We are so proud of the achievement of our students!

Note you should receive your child's MSA Reading and Math Report in the mail shortly. Our attendance of 97% has set the bar for all City Schools. This is evidence that students enjoy learning here and you, their parents, feel confident in the safe and supportive learning environment we pride ourselves in having.

"Ex opere et labore excellentia."



THE STADIUM SCHOOL

"The World is Our Classroom."

Ronald N. Shelley
Executive Director

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Director of Instruction

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Celebrating 15 Years
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In the coming year, we will need your support in our continuing initiatives and our new initiatives, including: the Parent/Teacher Organization (PTO), headed by Ms. Drake, PTO President; parent support groups, headed up by our parent/community liaison, Ms. Yvette Whims; and increased volunteerism. We will be continuing with our conflict resolution program. This year in addition to the Daily Rap, Conflict Resolution Education and Peer Mediation, we will be adding Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS); the only evidence based learning behavioral-intervention initiative that has proven successful across decades in our regions as well as others around the country.

You will be receiving other contacts over the course of the summer, including an orientation letter and materials list. By now you have also already received the summer reading assignment, including the book list and book review rubrics with explanations on what the books reviews should include. And, you know that your child is expected to read two books from the list and complete reviews of these books. We will be having an orientation and we invite you to be an active participant in your child's learning. At the orientation, your child, with your supervision, will receive a school planner. This will be a way for your child to stay organized and on top of assignments and a way for you, as a parent, to stay connected to your child's day to day school experience.

Have a wonderful rest of the summer and we look forward to beginning our next school year. The orientation for the 2009-10 school year is Thursday, August 27th from 5-8pm: 5:00-6:00 for 6th graders, 6:00-7:00 for 7th graders, and 7:00-8:00 for 8th graders. You will be getting more information on that in mid-July. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Ronald W. Shelley

Ronald Shelley
Executive Director