

RUSSELL H. CONWELL MIDDLE MAGNET SCHOOL

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Principal

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Assistant Principal

Summer Letter

June 12, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Wow ... what an unexpected school year! However, we were resilient and made it through. The year 2020 is definitely showing us that we are stronger than we thought and that collectively we can accomplish anything.

The 8th grade virtual ceremony was held today virtually and it was a rather special event despite the challenge of not being together to celebrate. I owe ALL the 8th grade graduates lots of HUGS!!!

I am certain everyone is looking forward to some summer sunshine and opportunities to re-connect in person practicing social distancing. The COVID -19 pandemic may have had us preoccupied since March 13th however, there were lots of good things going on from September until then. There were a variety of activities that took place worthy of being highlighted:

- Throughout the year, we raised money for various causes, which included breast cancer and the American Heart Association. You just cannot beat Conwell's giving spirit!
- The parents of Josean Ramirez grade graciously sponsored breakfast goodies for the HONOR'S BREAKFAST celebrations.
- The family of Josean also donated a popcorn machine for our Cougar Cash In events and the mother of Isaac Mercado made one of her famous specialty cakes that was delicious for this event as well.
- There was a RIBBON cutting ceremony for the NEW Science Labs that we can't wait to use in the fall!
- Students celebrated their good ATTENDANCE with a DANCE and MOVIE DAY.
- The Philly Ad Club joined the 7th grade classes and Mr. Verdi monthly and introduced them to creating ads and re-designing album covers. Really cool!!!
- The ASAS had another successful year... there were "Kids in the Kitchen," PECO Peep, SIXERS game and Family Dinner Nights and rocking it out on the guitar!!!

- The Delphi Project and the PA Ballet provided an afterschool program to expose our students to dance, creative writing, singing and videography. The students showcased their talents at the Black History Assembly!!!
- Conwell Alumni Zaire Franklin, class of 2008 current NFL player for the Indianapolis Colts visited the school and hung out with the 8th grade students and gave words of encouragement to “*Stay focused and keep searching for and acquiring more knowledge*”

During the 2019-2020 school year, we stayed true to the mission of a challenging education program, inspiring students in learning and having caring individuals guide them through the middle school years.

8th GRADE UPDATES

Yes, there will be a special event for the 8th grade students once the 2020 memorabilia (Yearbook/ T-Shirts) arrives and the SDP gives us permission to distribute. Yes, refunds will be given according to the guidelines of the SDP. Please continue to check the website and GOOGLE classroom for these updates.

RETRIEVE ITEMS

Yes, there will be a scheduled date to retrieve personal items from the lockers. The date(s) and time will be posted on the Conwell Website and in GOOGLE classroom.

CHROMEBOOKS

Students and families will continue to borrow CHROMEBOOKS during the summer. There will be a return date to CONWELL in August. In the meantime, please continue to use the technology for learning. Since this is a loaner please take extra care when using and remember that you are responsible if LOST, STOLEN or DAMAGED.

Summer S.O.A. R. Programming

Select students have been invited to the SUMMER S.O.A.R. program. Students and Parents check your SDP email and complete the link. This is a great opportunity to keep your skills fresh, reinforcing previous learning.

ASAS CAMP VIRTUALLY

Yes, After School All Stars will have VIRTUAL SUMMER CAMP registration on Monday June 15th- Wednesday, June 17th. Please check the website or contact Ms. Maria #267-563-8215 for more information. There will be LOTS of VIRTUAL FUN!!!

SAFETY CONCERNS

Again, this year, the Conwell School Community has had its share of incidents regarding the opioid drug crisis in the neighborhood. The city of Philadelphia has a Resiliency Project and is working

with the SDP and the 24th police district was visible by foot, bike and horse patrol. There have also been additional police cars posted in the Philadelphia Parking Authority Lot along with police stationed on surrounding blocks. School Police has been supportive as well. As we go home for the summer, please reassure your child that faculty, staff and police are working to provide a safe learning environment.

FAREWELL

Thank you to the following folks for providing a nurturing school and classroom environment. The students will ALWAYS remember those qualities that made you a unique person. I wish you the very best in the next journey of your careers.

Mr. Brookstein, PE/Health Teacher
Mr. De Mayo, 5th Grade Teacher
Ms. Frangione, Assistant Principal
Mr. Hackman, 6th Grade Resident Teacher
Ms. Hogan, School Nurse

THANK YOU

To the students, parents and guardians... YOU are appreciated for supporting the VIRTUAL LEARNING process. ☺

FYI

So, enjoy the lazy days of summer and kindly remember that this is **TENTATIVE** information provided if school has re-opened for the FALL... the school re-opens on **August 31, 2020 at 7:30 AM for breakfast and 7:56 AM for lineup in the yard**. The students are expected to be in FULL uniform on the first day, **Royal Blue Shirts, Khaki Pants and a Mask**. Here is some additional information:

- **Emergency Contact Forms** must be completed and returned to school the week of September 7th.
- **The School Office will be open during the week of August 17th – August 31st to conduct business from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM.**
- **New Student Orientation is Wednesday, August 26th from 9AM-11AM.** We are excited about all the new young people that are joining Conwell Middle Magnet School.
- **Uniforms (shirts and pants) can be purchased through Flynn and O' Hara Uniforms. Check them out on line.** There are easy and convenient options for you getting the uniform with our logo.
- **Conwell custom masks with the school logo (\$8)** available please email Ms. Branch hbranch@philasd.org (available at the school)

- **“RISING” 8th grade students will have their first meeting when we return to school. They will receive information for next school year regarding dues and activities.**
- There are some school shirts sold at Conwell on a limited basis depending on size.
- Summer Reading List is on The School District of Philadelphia’s website
- The [Free Library](#) has curated a list of books, websites, blog posts, images, etc in support of Black Lives Matter. There were some Philly specific resources in this list.
- Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) will continue to encourage responsible behavior.
- Conwell “Scholars” are young people who are practicing P.A.W.S.: Peaceful, Accountable, Well Mannered and Solving Problems.
- Follow us on Twitter “CONWELLS” and the Conwell Middle School Website.
- Students are asked to participate in “Tie Tuesdays” by adding a Tie to their uniform shirt. Thursdays will be “College Days” students are asked to have a T-shirt or Sweatshirt that they can wear to encourage that they are college bound!!!
- Students should have a book, novel; newspaper with them at all times to read during the school day.

Your Final Report Card is available on line

Report cards will be made available through the Parent & Family Portal per the following schedule:

- **Students in Grades 9-12:** 9:00 am on **Monday, June 15**
- **Students in Grades K-8:** 9:00 am on **Tuesday, June 16**

Best wishes for a wonderful, blessed summer! I hope you and your family will have a safe and enjoyable vacation. I am available by email during the summer. Sending peace and love your way and I hope that we will be together again in September!

Sincerely,

Erica M. Green

Ms. Erica M. Green