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“Give your best every day and your best will come back to you.”

August, 2009

Dear Shady Grove Families:

I hope this letter finds you in good health and spirit. My name is Edward Owusu and I am the Acting Principal of Shady Grove Middle School. I am energized about beginning my 16<sup>th</sup> year as an educator. We have been diligently working this summer to prepare for the 2009-2010 school year and prepare a second home for your wonderful children.

Below are some dates that are important to note:

- ❖ Sixth Grade and New Student Orientation: Thursday, August 27, 7:55 a.m. – 11:40 a.m. at SGMS (see enclosed bus schedule)
- ❖ **First Day of School:** Monday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, Classes begins at 7:55 a.m.
- ❖ Labor Day/Holiday: Monday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, School CLOSED.
- ❖ First PTA Meeting: Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.
- ❖ Athletic Tryouts: September 8, 9, & 10<sup>th</sup>, (A valid health physical and form are required.)
- ❖ Outdoor Education Parent Meeting: Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m. at SGMS
- ❖ Hispanic Parent Meeting (H.O.L.A.): Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 a.m.
- ❖ Athletic Events begin: Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- ❖ **Back-to-School Night:** Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7:00 p.m. (Program Begins)
- ❖ Back-to-School Dance: Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. at SGMS
- ❖ Magruder Cluster Hispanic Parent Breakfast: Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 a.m. at Magruder HS
- ❖ Yom Kippur: Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, Schools Closed
- ❖ Early Release Day: Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, School day ends at 12:10 p.m.
- ❖ Outdoor Education begins October 5<sup>th</sup> through October 9<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ Interims Mailed: Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ Columbus Day/Open House: Monday, October 12<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ School Pictures: Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ Magruder Cluster African American Parent Breakfast: Saturday, October 24, 8:30 a.m. at Magruder HS
- ❖ End of First Marking Period: Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>

The Sixth Grade and New Student Orientations are designed to simulate a half day of school. On this day sixth graders and new students to Shady Grove Middle School should report to the Dining Room. Students being dropped off or walking should enter the rear of the building to ensure safety as busses drop students off at the front. Staff will be welcoming students and directing them to the appropriate location. The school day is over at 11:40 a.m. at which time buses will transport the students back to their designated bus stops. Parents picking up their children should follow the *Student Drop-off* and *Student Pick-up* signs at the rear of the building.

On the first day of school, **August 31<sup>st</sup>**, buses will follow the enclosed schedule and upon arrival students will report to the following areas:

Sixth grade - Media Center Hallway

Seventh grade - Gym Hallway

Eighth grade - Dining Room

The students at Shady Grove Middle School continue to make wonderful strides on the state measurement of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Below is a chart of our progress and we are very proud of our students efforts.

Subgroups	MSA Math % Proficient/Advanced							MSA Reading % Proficient/Advanced						
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
<b>All</b>	49	56	65	73	73	79	83	66	75	71	77	82	88	88
<b>African American</b>	28	35	40	46	49	60	71	75	59	50	58	72	80	85
<b>Asian</b>	76	81	91	93	91	97	94	44	94	87	89	91	97	95
<b>Hispanic</b>	21	37	44	62	64	69	76	76	55	53	64	71	80	79
<b>White</b>	56	63	81	87	88	90	92	50	81	86	89	94	95	96
<b>FARMS</b>	23	30	32	52	56	57	69	76	51	41	55	67	74	77
<b>Special Ed</b>	18	8	28	33	44	52	49	47	21	30	40	50	62	66
<b>ESOL</b>	25	33	36	54	57	58	72	26	17	28	52	57	69	66

More importantly however are the daily rigorous gains our students have made in the classroom, with service organizations in the community, on club and sports teams, or within the arts and humanities and the data above is only a snapshot of their academic achievements.

Our staff continues to provide a rich and caring environment for your child. We value the trust you place in us every day, and are committed to providing all it takes to move all children to higher levels. Higher levels include well rounded students who are capable of excelling in all facets of school and community affairs.

Within this package you will find information that should be returned to the school such as the directory information form, and the prepayment form for school meals. Additionally, please be assured that our school policy regarding school fees are aligned with the county. If you have any questions regarding this issue please do not hesitate to call or email me.

Our Community Superintendent, Mr. Adrian Talley, has asked me to insert the following paragraph into this letter:  
 "As these tight budget times continue, we appreciate the funding and support the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) has received from the County Council. We recognize that it is imperative to use our resources in the most efficient and effective manner. MCPS staffing allocations are based on projected enrollment. We certainly hope that at the beginning of the school year our actual enrollment matches the projected enrollment. Unfortunately, as a result of this current fiscal situation, it may become necessary for staffing changes to occur in some schools if enrollment comes in below projection and doesn't justify the staffing that was allocated. If there is a need to make an adjustment in staffing based on actual enrollment, I will do my best to minimize the impact of these necessary adjustments. I will keep you informed and alert you of any changes that may occur at our school."

In closing, it is with pride that I begin my tenure at Shady Grove Middle School. Please know that I will continue to diligently work to maintain and build upon the positive gains this school has made, as well as assist in creating new opportunities for student success. At the same time my vision for a kid friendly environment will be communicated in all my actions and words. It's my hope and expectation to work in partnership with students, parents, and staff to make this one of the best years yet!

With warm regards,



Edward K. Owusu  
Acting Principal