



McKinley Classical Leadership Academy

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“The school of “The Ultimate Challenge!”

KELVIN ADAMS, PH.D.
SUPERINTENDENT

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PRINCIPAL

January 4, 2018

Dear Parents and Students:

Welcome back to school and Happy New Year! I am excited to see what 2018 brings for the McKinley family. We start the year running and the learning and activities do not settle down until the end of May. Our basketball season continues for boys and girls this month. Talent show auditions will be held next week and the show is tentatively scheduled for the first Friday in March. The music department is busy preparing students for competitions and performances. I hope you were able to catch the choir and band concerts prior to the winter break. They were an amazing show of our students' talents and commitment to the musical arts. As always, please use our online calendars to stay caught up with important dates. (MS--<https://www.slps.org/Page/10294> and HS--<https://www.slps.org/Page/9872>).

The start of a New Year often begets a time when we make resolutions to live a better life or to make self-improvements. Resolutions can be hard to keep, especially for children; however, having a support system in the form of parents and teachers can make these goals more manageable. I encourage you to talk with your children in regards to goals they have for the second half of the school year. Once they have established their goals, work together to break these goals down into small, attainable tasks. As your child finds success with the attainable tasks, have celebrations to recognize the success and then measure progress toward the bigger goal. If your child needs support in coming up with goals or resolutions consider the following questions:

1. Are you getting all your assignments done on time?
2. Are you totally engaged in your lessons?
3. How are you using your phone? Is it a tool or a distraction?
4. Are you getting to school and all your classes on time?
5. Are you being a good friend? What does that mean to you?
6. Do you feel empowered to make your own decisions?
7. Do you feel challenged? If not, what are you doing to advocate for your needs, but also independently find appropriate challenges to help you grow?

These conversation starters are good ways to help students discover goals that will increase their academic success and growth toward being college and career ready.

Lastly, I would like to reiterate the importance of parent involvement in education and how it directly relates to student achievement. Conversations like the ones described above are one way to connect with your child's academic progress. Other ways include discussing progress reports and report cards as well as discussing what your child is learning in class and sincerely showing interest in these studies. Your children value your input even if they do not always show it. You were their first teacher and they will continue to turn to you when they need advice and guidance. You can influence what happens in your child's school life by being involved with the Parent Teacher Organization which meets the second Monday of every month at 6:30 pm in the library. Parent/teacher conferences will not occur until the spring (March 21 & 22); however, please know that you can always reach out to teachers via email if you have a question or concern about your child's progress. Our teachers want to see your student being successful, and they value this parent communication, because they know it makes a difference.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with your family. Let's make 2018 a great year for learning and growing.

Sincerely,
Stephen Warmack
Principal