July 21, 2023

Dear 6th Grade Renaissance Families,

I hope this letter finds you all in good health and high spirits as we are already eagerly anticipating the upcoming academic year. As the proud principal of Renaissance @ Rand Middle School, I am thrilled to extend a warm welcome to all the incoming 6th grade students as well as the parents and guardians of our incoming 6th grade students.

It is with great enthusiasm that we embark on this new chapter together - a chapter filled with growth, discovery, and endless possibilities. The transition to middle school is an exciting time in a student's life, marked by new experiences, increased responsibilities, and a broadening of their educational horizons. Rest assured, we are fully committed to ensuring a seamless and supportive transition for every student.

At Renaissance we believe in fostering a nurturing and inclusive learning environment where students can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. We recognize that every child is unique, possessing their own strengths, interests, and challenges. With this in mind, our dedicated staff is prepared to provide individualized attention and support to help each student reach their full potential.

We are committed to fostering a love for learning by offering a diverse range of subjects, including mathematics, English language arts, science, social studies, physical education, and the arts. Furthermore, we strive to provide a well-rounded education that extends beyond the classroom, with opportunities for field trips, clubs, and community service projects.

We also understand the importance of communication and collaboration between school and home. We firmly believe that parents and guardians play an integral role in their child's education, and we value your input, partnership, and involvement. Throughout the year, we will provide regular updates on your child's progress, organize parent-teacher conferences, and host various workshops and events to facilitate meaningful interactions between families and staff.

As we embark on this exciting journey together, I encourage you to reach out if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions. We are here to listen, support, and work collaboratively with you to ensure a successful and enriching experience for your child.

In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for entrusting us with your child's education. The 6th grade is a remarkable time in their lives, and we are honored to be part of their educational journey. We eagerly look forward to meeting all of you in person and forging strong partnerships between home and school.

Warmly,

Maria Francisco, Principal
July 21, 2023

A Message Regarding Renaissance Math Progression

We understand that there has been some confusion regarding the Math Courses offered at Renaissance, and we would like to provide clarification to ensure a clear understanding for everyone involved.

Renaissance is unique in offering accelerated Math to students in all grades, including incoming 6th graders who are automatically enrolled in accelerated Math 6. There is an opportunity for students who have met a previously established criteria in 5th grade to double up in Math and Accelerated Math in 6th grade. The 6 grade Accelerated Math is more rigorous than the regular accelerated Math all 6th graders automatically take. Students will also have an opportunity in 7th grade to double up in geometry in 8th grade. Students will need to meet both teacher recommendation and assessment criteria in order to qualify. Please note that these opportunities are an addition to the already accelerated curriculum, as all Renaissance students are enrolled in accelerated Math courses and not leveled courses.

Examples of the Math progression at Renaissance:

Scenario 1: Ronaldo comes into 6th grade, takes 6 grade Math, then 7th Grade Algebra A. Ronaldo performs well in both courses. At the end of 7th Grade, Ronaldo can be recommended to double up with Algebra B and Geometry in 8th Grade. At the end of 8th Grade, Ronaldo will have the opportunity to be recommended for the advanced Math track in high school.

Scenario 2: Ronaldo comes into 6th grade, takes 6th grade Math + qualifies to take 6th Grade Accelerated Math (met previously established criteria), in 7th grade, Ronaldo takes Algebra B with the 8th graders and in 8th grade, Ronaldo takes Geometry. As long as Ronaldo does well in all the courses, Ronaldo enters the high school on the advanced Math track.

It is important to also note that we will not receive a list of students who meet the criteria to double up from the Montclair School District until mid-August. The district will directly notify parents if their child has met the criteria. We understand that this can cause further questions, and we are here to address any concerns you may have.

Please feel free to reach out to us with any additional questions or if you require further clarification. We are committed to ensuring a smooth and transparent process for our students and families.

Warmly,

Maria Francisco, Principal