July 1, 2024

Dear Incoming 6th Graders, Families, and Caregivers,

Welcome to Renaissance at Rand Middle School! My name is Maria Francisco, and I am honored to be your Principal. We are thrilled to have you join our school community and cannot wait to see how you will grow both academically and socially over the next three years. This is an exciting time, and we are eager to be part of your journey.

At Renaissance at Rand Middle School, students will have countless opportunities to challenge themselves and expand their horizons. Whether it’s tackling a difficult math problem, diving into a science experiment, expressing themselves through art, dancing with Ms. Lorusso, joining the Dungeons and Dragons club with Mr. Woodward, or making music with Ms. Spagnuolo, there will be no shortage of ways to learn and grow. We encourage students to embrace these challenges with enthusiasm, as they are the key to overall development and success.

We are also excited to offer a variety of trips and adventures throughout the year as we do every year. This year, we have also added a phenomenal game room for students, equipped with VR systems, PS5s, arcade games, and more. Students can earn credits for good behavior, kind acts, and academic successes, which can then be exchanged for time in the game room. Additionally, we are working with our staff and student council members to create an alternative option for those who may not be into gaming. 

Renaissance Game Room

Although I do plan to hold a parent/student meeting prior to the beginning of school to address any jitters or inquiries, do keep in mind that the first two days of school at Renaissance serve as in-school orientation for our incoming 6th graders. Sixth grade students are exposed to all that they will be doing during this time. They will receive their schedules, school tours, meet related arts teachers, and get to know important staff in the building like the nurse, the counselor, and the main office staff. Students will have the building completely to themselves, as we send our 7th and 8th grade students out for team-building activities and trips- giving our sixth graders free reign of the building for the first few days of school. We have found that this really helps our kiddos with the transition.
In the meantime, please feel free to reach out to any of the following contacts with any questions or concerns:

**Maria Francisco, Principal:** mfrancisco@montclair.k12.nj.us
**Degra Aulderman, School Secretary to the Principal:** daulderman@montclair.k12.nj.us
**Leighann Fossella, School Social Worker:** lfossella@montclair.k12.nj.us
**Ms. Jada Roman, PTA President:** ptapres@renaissancepta.org
**Ivanice Kaplan, School Nurse:** ikaplan@montclair.k12.nj.us

As far as course selections, I will be emailing these in a separate email shortly. Please be sure to fill the google form out promptly as courses come on a first come first served basis. Parents and students will also be receiving information regarding music, summer assignments and supply lists in a separate email with all the details.

We are here to support each student and ensure that their transition to middle school is smooth and enjoyable. Once again, welcome to Renaissance at Rand Middle School. We look forward to meeting each of you. Enjoy the rest of the summer.

Warm regards,

Maria Francisco
Principal, Renaissance at Rand Middle School