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"Soaring to Excellence"

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Dear Urbana Students, Parents, and Guardians,

Welcome to the new 2020 school year! Whether you are a new or returning member of the Urbana Middle School learning community, I want to say **Welcome Hawks!** It seems like we just celebrated end of the year events and now summer is coming to an end! We hope you are as excited as we are to begin the new school year, celebrate our successes, and set our new goals for the upcoming year.

Urbana Middle School received the P.B.I.S Maryland **GOLD** Recognition Award for this past school year. This is the highest level of achievement for our Positive Behavior Intervention and Support initiative. We will continue our **HAWK TALK** advisories where we conduct class meetings to ensure our students feel safe at school, have a trusted adult, and feel confident when experiencing peer and social situations that are common in middle school. We also facilitate lessons on Student Advocacy, Character Counts, organization, and management of their school work responsibilities during this time.

During the 2019 school year, we celebrated many student academic achievements and look forward to another year where our students will compete and share their talents across content areas at the school, county and state levels! While our focus is on learning, middle school is an exciting time and we hope students take full advantage of all the wonderful opportunities for you to learn and grow as a learner at UMS! Stay tuned for opportunities to be a morning announcer, join our Student Government Association, participate in school performances and plays, join an afterschool club, or be a member of one of our academic teams.

During the summer months, I have been meeting with my administrative team, counselors, and staff members to strategically plan for the 2020 school year. In addition, I am working closely with our PTSA Executive Board, feeder schools, and community members on upcoming events. UMS will continue to offer a positive, productive learning environment and differentiated instruction to meet the needs of every student. Our educational program will continue to be academically challenging and engaging, while providing the necessary supports to guide our students in this ever changing, global society toward 21st century learning! Together, our collaborative partnership will make our school an even better place for our students to be active learners and grow as young adults.

The first day of school is **Tuesday, September 3!** We will host an **Open House on Wednesday, August 21** from **9 am-11am and 1-3 pm**. 6th grade students and new UMS students/families can pick up schedules, purchase agendas and locks, join the PTSA, and informally tour the building. Returning UMS 7th & 8th grade students can access their schedules on August 21. Scheduling information will not be available prior to Aug 21.

Please also mark your calendar for our **Back to School** evening on **Thursday, August 29 from 4:30 – 6:00 pm**. Our classrooms will be open and our UMS teachers/staff will be here to meet you and your family.

Middle School is such an exciting time and I can't wait to see our "new and returning Hawks". It is my hope our students, parents, and community will partner together to help our students "**SOAR to SUCCESS!**" We send our regular communications via "Find Out First". For more information, please visit: www.fcps.org and click on the Find Out First icon.

Should you ever have any comments, questions, or concerns, please feel free to contact me at any time. Enjoy the remainder of your summer; I look forward to seeing everyone soon!

Warmest regards,

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