



August 25, 2016

Dear Parents of *Gifted Students*:

The 2015-2016 school year included a great deal of “newness” which included a new logo, school uniforms, employee of the month recognitions, new extracurricular activities, RAM Academic Clubs, quarterly RAM Academic Club recognitions, new culture and climate student and staff non-negotiables, family oriented slogans and murals to promote togetherness and school pride. A few of last year’s accomplishments are below:

**College And Career Readiness Index (CRPI) and Ga Milestones**

- Four point increase in CCRPI score from **52.4** (2014) to **56.1** (2015).
- 3% increase in the percentage of students proficient in ELA from 2015 to 2016 as measured by the GA Milestones.
- 3% increase in the percentage of students proficient in Math from 2015 to 2016 as measured by the GA Milestones
- 5% increase in the percentage of students proficient in Science from 2015 to 2016 as measured by the GA Milestones
- 2% increase in the percentage of students proficient in Social Studies from 2015 to 2016 as measured by the GA Milestones.

**Culture and Climate**

- Freedom reduced the total number of discipline resolutions to 992, which equated to a 45% decrease.

**Awards and Distinctions**

- Freedom received the T-3 Award for the Clarkston High Cluster of schools for most all around improvement in the area of Conditions, Capacity and Community.
- The Robotics Club won first place in the Research Component of Robotics Competition.
- The Freedom Band and the Freedom International Chorus both received superior ratings at various music festivals and competitions

As we start this new academic year, we are keenly aware of the unique needs of gifted and talented learners. Each student is taught by at least two teachers who are certified in gifted education. Additionally, there are several clubs that are designed to attract gifted students.

These clubs include:

- *Poetry Club,*
- *4-H, Beta Club*
- *Debate Club*
- *Distinguish Learners Club*

The criteria for the Distinguished Learners Club is a Distinguished Performance (above grade level performance) in 3 of 4 content areas as measured by the GA Milestones.

Finally, 7<sup>th</sup> grade gifted students will have the opportunity to become part of the Duke TIP program, a nationally recognized program that is based at Duke University. This program works with gifted and talented students, their families, and educators to identify, recognize, challenge, engage, and help students reach their highest potential.

Please know that we will continue to strive to be *Fantastic* in everything that we do this school year. We will continue to emphasize the **4Rs: Respect, Relationships, Rituals and Routines**. Our mission is to provide a conducive learning environment so that students can reach their potential, and compete in a global society. We want you to know that we are working diligently to ensure that your child is indeed prepared for future success.

We look forward to working in partnership with you this year and welcome your feedback as well as suggestions. We also welcome you to volunteer during the day and or participate/attend parent workshops and meetings. In closing, thank you for entrusting Fantastic Freedom with your child's education.

Respectfully,

Andrea Armstrong  
Gifted Liaison/6<sup>th</sup> Grade SS Teacher

Marc Boston  
Principal