Dear Southwest Academy Families:

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! On behalf of the Southwest Academy faculty and staff, I would like to welcome our incoming sixth grade students, as well as our new and returning seventh and eighth grade students.

As we rebound from a historic year in education, this year, we will continue to focus on accelerating student learning and providing students with rigorous and robust learning experiences. Our theme for this school year is "ACCELERATING Our Momentum to INCREASE Our Altitude." Many of our SWA students have not been in the school building since March 2020. As educational partners, we must reacquaint students to our high expectations—socially, emotionally, behaviorally, and academically. Our charge as educators is to assess and identify the students’ needs. We will not remediate based on the needs. Instead, we will integrate the identified skills and concepts into the current grade level standards and expectations and ACCELERATE our students’ learning. However, we cannot ACCELERATE our students’ learning alone. We are counting on families to assist us in this endeavor by monitoring your children’s academic, behavioral, and social emotional progress; communicating with teachers and staff; and reinforcing learning at home.

Based on CDC recommendations, BCPS require that all persons—students, staff and visitors wear masks—whether they are vaccinated or not. Wearing masks is an extra layer of protection for our students, staff, and their families. However, vaccination is still the most effective action we can take to prevent the spread of COVID-19. We continue to urge everyone eligible to get vaccinated. Southwest Academy is currently collaborating with community partner, Morningstar Baptist Church, to host a Saturday Vaccination Clinic. Please stay tuned for more information.

In preparation for the school year, please note the following important information:

- As communicated, the BCPS school day has increased 15 minutes for all schools. Please see the new bell schedule enclosed.
- Early Entry Grade 6 Welcome: Friday, August 27, 2021 (8:00 a.m.-11:45 a.m.). Information is enclosed.
- Grade 6 Back-to-School Night: Wednesday, September 8, 2021, 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. More information is forthcoming.
- Grades 7 and 8 Back-to-School Night: Wednesday, September 15, 2021, 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. More information is forthcoming.

Please continue to check your email, BCPS (www.bcps.org), and Southwest Academy (https://southwestms.bcps.org) websites for ongoing district and school updates.

Lastly, please review all enclosed documents. They will be beneficial to students and families.

Enjoy the remaining weeks of summer!

Sincerely,
April N. Franklin, Principal