

SPORT & MEDICAL SCIENCES ACADEMY



Hartford
A System of Schools

John P. Lavery, Principal
Joseph F. Kopf, Assistant Principal
Melony M. Brady, Dean of Students/Magnet Theme Coach

280 Huyshope Ave
Hartford, CT 06106
Tel: (860) 695-6900
Fax: (860) 722-8017

jlavery@hartfordschools.org
kopfj001@hartfordschools.org
bradm002@hartfordschools.org

www.sportandmedicalsciences.org



Dedication Responsibility
Discipline Respect

October 1, 2009

Dear SMSA parents,

Last fall we welcomed 7th and 8th grade students to SMSA as our inaugural middle school class. The main reason for establishing the middle school was to better prepare students academically and to familiarize them with our curriculum, themes, policies, culture and climate of the school. Ultimately we believe that we will see better students who are better prepared to meet the challenges and rigor of a college career.

As a Magnet School we must be in compliance with benchmarks and goals set by the State of Connecticut and the mandates established by the Sheff vs. O'Neil desegregation lawsuit. There are strict guidelines for racial and ethnic balance as well as urban and suburban student balance. In order to be in compliance with these goals and benchmarks we examine statistic on race, ethnicity, urban and suburban back rounds, at what grade and from where our students come to us from. We also examine other Magnet School's statistic to determine where they are or are not successful... This is done to insure a diverse school population and a rich, varied and well rounded experience.

After reviewing last year's statistic we found some interesting findings. We (SMSA) were not attracting a large or diverse student pool applying for entry in to our 7th grade. Eight grades were slightly better, but in ninth grade we had a large very diverse group of students applying, not only to our school but to other magnet schools. We also were able to determine that Magnet Schools that had sixth grade programs were able to attract large diverse pools of students applying to get into their schools. These schools also had large numbers of suburban students applying. Resulting in a very diverse student body. As a result we believe that parents and especially suburban parents are more reluctant to send their sons and daughters to Magnet Schools in the 7th grade. We believe that many suburban school district have a K-5, 6,7,and 8 and then high school configuration. As a result many students that entered last year and any student entering SMSA this year and in the future will likely have to be enrolled in three different schools in three years. Those would be their 5th grade at their elementary school, 6th grade at their middle school then 7th grade at our school. No one wants their children to go to three schools in three years and this has put us at a disadvantage recruiting a more diverse population.

As a result we have planned to include a 6th grade class for the 2010 - 2011 school year. Our proposal which has been included in our Operations Plan has been approved by the State Department of Education and the Hartford Board of Education. We will begin accepting application form current 5th graders for our first group of 6th graders very soon.

Sincerely,

SMSA – PREPARING TOMORROW'S PROFESSIONALS TODAY!