

News from the Stamford Public Schools

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For immediate release

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Rippowam Middle School Receives 21st Century Grant For After School Activities

Rippowam Middle School has received a five year, \$850,000 Connecticut State Department of Education 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant to provide after school academic support and enrichment for 200 students and their families. The school is one of 14 in the state to earn the grant, out of a field of 40 applicants.

“Over the past three years, we have proven that we can create model programs that support children and families,” said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joshua Starr. “This grant will enable us to build on the successes that programs like the Middle School Readiness Academy, High School Prep Academy, ALTA, AVID, and UPals have had in preparing each and every student for college.”

The program, which will be called Community Connections, will follow the School wide Enrichment Model, developed by Joseph Renzulli and Sally Reis of the University of Connecticut. It will consist of two, ten-week sessions with at least 12 hours of services offered at both Rippowam Middle School and the YMCA. The program will provide an integrated focus on academics, health and social services, and family and community engagement for improved student learning and stronger families.

Community Connections is a collaborative effort by Rippowam Middle School, the Academy of Information Technology & Engineering, Adult Education, the YMCA, the University of Connecticut, and Family Centers.

Rippowam students will be surveyed later this fall to determine which activities will be incorporated into Community Connections. The program is open to any Rippowam student and will begin shortly after January 2009. Staff from Stamford Public Schools, the YMCA, UCONN, and other community agencies will be recruited to provide direct services to students and families. Students from the Academy of Information Technology & Engineering will serve as peer mentors.

