

News from the Stamford Public Schools

For Immediate Release

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**Stamford's Middle School Readiness Academy
To Be Honored by NAACP**

The Middle School Readiness Academy, a program that provides academic support to 5th grade students and their families, will receive the Nellie Spears Award at the NAACP's Annual Freedom Fund Dinner on Friday, February 22, at 6:00 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 453 Shippan Avenue in Stamford.

According to Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joshua Starr, "The Middle School Readiness Academy has established itself as a model program for engaging families and improving student achievement. I'm thrilled that staff, students, and families have been recognized for their hard work."

The MSRA, now in its third year, meets from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for a series of 15 Saturdays. It targets students who are not meeting proficiency on the Connecticut Mastery Test, an annual state exam that tests students' skills in reading, writing, and math.

"The ultimate value of the program is tied to what our scholars and parents are able to do to stay on a path to school success," says Eileen Swerdlick, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education and the program's founder and leader. "I'm gratified to be involved with a dedicated team of professionals that understands what is required for high achievement and is willing to give what is required to empower families to attain their academic pursuits."

The MSRA aims to help students learn study skills that are important for success in middle school, to close the achievement gap, and to teach parents how to support their children in their class work. The program requires parents to attend classes with their scholars as part of the program and includes motivational guest speakers and field trips.

The MSRA team is a highly aligned corps of teachers, educational assistants, custodians, and bus, kitchen, and office staff all focused on supporting a learning environment of high trust, cooperation, and productivity.

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