



TOWNSHIP OF UNION PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2369 Morris Avenue
Union, New Jersey 07083

MIDDLE SCHOOL ACADEMY FOR FALL SEMESTER 2011

- *The Middle School Academy will take place in both the Burnet Middle School and the Kawameeh Middle School.*
- *Middle School Academy students will receive an additional morning class (from 7:10AM – 7:55AM) on every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. The students will receive an additional afternoon class (2:50PM – 3:35PM) on every Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. (Note that Middle School Academy students take both a morning and an afternoon class on Mondays.) The Middle School Academy will take place from October 7 through December 1. The morning class, then, will meet 20 times, and the afternoon class will meet 20 times.*



- *The morning class will be a “Morning Assembly” where Academy students will view the current events of the day (through discussion of newspaper articles) and then learn to present their ideas through public speaking. Members from university staffs as well as staff members from community organizations and representatives from private industry will periodically visit these Morning Assemblies to engage the students in thoughtful discussions.*



- *Every fifth Morning Assembly, from 7:10AM to 7:55AM, all Academy students will attend a “Talk and Walk”.*

All Academy students will be permitted to wear sneakers and “active clothing” on these days. They will attend a 10-minute lecture on a health-related current event topic and then engage in a 30-minute “power walk” around the neighborhood of their school. During these activities, the students will remain under the supervision of the Academy faculty.



Possible health-related current event topics may include: “The negative impact of junk food on one’s heart and other vital organs,” “The impact of a sedentary lifestyle on one’s weight,” “How moderate exercise can increase one’s ability to concentrate in school.”



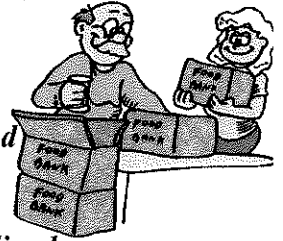
The afternoon class will involve the viewing of a musical play, perhaps “Newsies” at the nearby Papermill Playhouse, and then the subsequent preparation in class of dramatic scenes from the production. At the conclusion of the fall Academy, teachers of drama

and musical productions from Union High School and from other institutions of higher learning will be invited to come to each middle school to view and critique the students' scenes.



The afternoon class will also engage in the activities of the "Superhero Project". In this project students will create their own comic book that will feature characters who possess attributes similar to those of the student creating the book. The characters in the comic book will join forces to do positive things in society. Students will receive fundamental drawing lessons (for comic book design) from artists.

Finally, the afternoon class will engage in a community service project. The students in the class may spearhead a food drive and prepare box lunches that might be distributed at area homeless shelters. Or perhaps the students will prepare toiletry bags for homeless individuals. The "tie-in" to the Superhero Project outlined above will be emphasized to the students.



Academy Students will be asked to abide by a special dress code throughout the school day: no jeans or sneakers . . . shirt/blouse tucked in . . . and the young men will wear a necktie.

Academy Students will be held to very high standards of behavior, standards will be excused from the Academy.

Academy Students will be invited to engage in: evening and weekend cultural field trips and dinners (where etiquette lessons might be practiced), and interfacing opportunities with representatives from government and universities (networking).

Faculty for the program will come from the faculty of the Township of Union School District.

The cost of the Academy will be \$60 per student. Parents/Guardians will be asked to pay this amount in cash before the beginning of the program. Scholarship assistance will be available.

Special Parent Meetings to learn more about the Academy Program from Township of Union School District Superintendent Dr. Patrick W. Martin will take place on:

Monday, September 26, 2011, 7PM, at Burnet Middle School

Tuesday, September 27, 2011, 7PM, at Kawameeh Middle School

