

Hello CYSP students and parents!

I would like to welcome all of your students to the CYSP (Concept Young Scholars Program) for the 2021-2022 school year. FYI, if you were not aware, I invited students to write a small essay about why they want to be in CYSP and because of that, they have now been accepted into the group.

I know that many of you are already familiar with our CYSP program because of your student's past involvement, but also many of your students are new to our program, so I would like to give you a little more information. We would normally do this with a welcome dinner for all students and parents, but since this year is "special", I will pass on some information and then encourage you to either reach out to me or your child's CYSP advisor for any additional information/questions/concerns, etc.

Concept Young Scholars Program (CYSP) has a mission to "improve students academic success, prepare them for college, develop strong character, nurture and empower students by completing steps/activities in FOUR SPECIFIC AREAS: (1) Personal Development (2) Community Service (3) Physical Fitness Activities (4) Educational Adventures"

I know that many of our students join CYSP because of the "fun" events such as our camping trips, lockins, field trips, open gym time, etc., but that is just a small part of the program. We have 60 students total signed up (grades 5-8) and then matched with 10 advisors in small groups to meet and work throughout the school year to earn their Gold, Silver, or Bronze awards. In the four following areas we will work towards specific goals:

(1) Personal Development

- \* Progress monitoring meetings with their advisors
- \* Character Education lessons and activities
- \* Weekend & Enrichment Programs
- \* Extra-Curricular Activities

(2) Community Service

- \* Several Community Service activities are planned each year  
(examples include food drives, letter/cards to service members, fundraisers, food packing for Haiti, parking lot cleanup, etc)

(3) Physical Fitness Activities

- \* Personal and Group Physical Fitness Activities (basketball/volleyball)
- \* Healthy Food and Drink Choices

(4) Educational Adventures

- \* Overnight Activities (this may not be able to take place this year at all)
- \* Trips and Camps (we will focus on day trips this year)
- \* Cultural Exposure
- \* College Tours/Visits

All of their activities are "tracked" through ConceptSIS. They will have access to input their own activities and the advisors will approve them and help them monitor their progress.

I have the first 7 Saturday school dates set:  
October 24, 31  
November 7,14,21  
December 5, 12

Saturday school starts at 9:00 (doors open at 8:45 and close at 9:15...no later arrivals)

We will do some creative writing, some problem solving, math and English skills practice along with Character Education, and physical fitness, etc.

We often plan extra activities after Saturday school as well. (Partly as a fun "reward" for attending Sat school as well as a way to help them earn their points for the Gold award).

These are the first two events:

Saturday October 24th: A trip to Eagle Creek for a fall hike (after Sat school until 2:00...student MUST attend Saturday school to participate)

Saturday October 31st: Fall Fest with games and team building activities (after Sat school until 2:00...student MUST attend Saturday school to participate)

Your students have all been invited to join my CYSP google classroom (along with you as guardians), so that I can send out information easily. In there they have received the list of advisors matched up with which students, along with a schedule of the Saturday schools and the 1st two activities.

This is just an overall introduction into our program. I will encourage our advisors to reach out to you, but also feel free to email me/us as well.

Thank you for allowing your student to participate. If for some reason, you (or they) change their minds and do not feel they are up to the challenge of this program, then please let me know so that I can offer their spot to another student.

I am very passionate about this program and have been involved in it for many years. I love to plan and attend the events and feel it is a wonderful opportunity to work with some of our IMSA students on a more personal level. I have seen a lot of growth over the years in students that have been in it for the full four years and have watched them build lasting memories.

Sincerely,