

From the desk of Ms. Karohn Young

August 16, 2015

Good afternoon BCJA Family:

I trust that you are having a rejuvenating weekend. As your new principal, I am so happy to have the privilege of working with your children this year. I know that God has great plans for their lives, and I am humbled at the opportunity to play a part in their development. Additionally, we would like to welcome the newest members of our faculty: Ms. Princess Hawk, our Kindergarten/Adv. K teacher; Ms. Ja'Lissa Humphreys, our third grade teacher; and Mr. Elvis Agard, our fifth grade teacher.

Welcome

BCJA started the 2014-15 school year on August 12 at 8:00 AM. For our first chapel on Wednesday, Pastor Russell reminded us all that the most important lesson we can learn is to put God first. Principal Young exhorted the students to be leaders, to be kind to one another, and to make wise choices that will yield positive results. Teachers went over classroom policies and procedures, school-wide rules, and schedules. The administration and faculty have started assessing the students in reading, writing, and math so that we will be able to formulate a dynamic, strategic curricular plan that will best address student needs.

This year we have a school-wide character theme for each month. The first letter of each theme forms an acrostic: BEREANChJA (Berean Christian Junior Academy). For the month of August, we will be focusing on **B (Bravery)**. Each classroom also has a special name and a theme. Ask your child to explain their 2015 classroom theme.

We also have a schoowide **House System** to encourage leadership, responsibility, team-building, and care. Each child has been placed in a House (team). Students earn House points based on attendance, correct uniform, random acts of kindness, academic scholarship, parent involvement, and discipline, etc. Soon, we will be having elections for House Leaders. Please look out for more information.

Expectations

As we go into the second week of school, please note the following:

1. Each child will need **4 textbook covers** to cover their books. We are ordering brand new textbooks and we want to keep them clean and in good order. In addition, all children need basic school supplies in order to function efficiently in class: pens, pencils, notebooks. Remember to pack a lunch for your child or send lunch money. Please note that the school does not have the resources to provide free lunches.
2. For the safety of our students, and to be in compliance with standard school practices, all parents and visitors must sign in at the front desk and receive a **visitor badge**. Feel free to join us for worship in the mornings or to help supervise lunch breaks. We want to ensure that all areas of our school remain safe and secure for our children.
3. Please bring your child to school **on time**. Tardy arrivals will result in missed learning opportunities and may negatively impact grades. Remember, while the teacher will endeavor to provide the child with what they will have missed, some classroom experiences cannot be duplicated. In addition to the student receiving optimum instructional opportunities, being on time teaches life skills, discipline, and time management.
4. If you would like to visit your child's classroom, please make an **appointment** with the receptionist, Ms. Lee. If you would like to speak with Principal Young, make an appointment with the administrative assistant, Mrs. Craig. If you need to pick up your child early, complete an **"Early Dismissal Form"** at the

front desk before Mrs. Lee brings your child to you. If you know in advance that your child will be late or absent (for a doctor's appointment, for example), fill out a "**Pre-Arranged Absence Form.**" This will give advance notice to the teacher so that he or she can assemble the work your child will miss and give it to you so that your child is less likely to fall behind in his or her schoolwork.

5. The **uniform schedule** is as follows for all grades:

Mondays and Wednesdays (Chapel Days)	-- Full dress uniforms (with ties & jackets)
Tues & Thurs (PE Days)	-- PE Uniforms
Fri (Fun Fridays)	-- Polo Shirts and Pants/Skirts

Please remember that all skirts and shorts are to be **knee-length**.

6. If you are having problems securing the correct uniform, write a letter explaining the problem and give it to the receptionist in the morning so that administration can work with you to resolve the issue as quickly as possible. Please ensure that your child(ren) are in clothes as close to the uniform as possible until the issue is resolved. Please do not send them in jeans, spandex, spaghetti straps, or short skirts/shorts. Please refrain from sending your child with jewelry, nail polish, makeup, or gum. Phones, earbuds, and other electronic devices are to be kept in lockers rather than brought to classrooms.
7. If you have a **concern** regarding your child's educational experience, first make an appointment to speak with the classroom teacher. If further support is needed, make an appointment to speak with the principal. We will endeavor to facilitate your requests within the bounds of school, state, and conference guidelines.
8. **Back to School Night** is this Thursday at 6:00 PM. It is essential that you attend this information session to be in sync with the expectations for this year as some of things may be new. You will be apprised of school rules, policies, and procedures, as well as classroom requirements. This knowledge will be invaluable for you as parents since it will establish the basis upon which home and school can partner together to work toward the success of your child. Early parents will receive House points towards their child/ren's House.
9. Please ensure that your child(ren) get plenty of rest, healthy food, fresh water, and exercise. Minimize sugary snacks, TV, and social media. We want them to come to school with a well-rested, focused, and curious mind so that they can think critically; absorb spiritual, academic, and social skills; and communicate effectively.

Blessings

In closing, we are looking forward to a great year! Our faith rests securely in the fact that BCJA is God's school; the teachers and staff are His disciples; the classrooms are His workshops; and the students are all His children. It is through His strength, direction, and favor that we will experience success and growth this year.

*Be vocal about our vision
Be driven about our destiny
Be motivated about our mission
Be passionate about our purpose
Be a champion for our children*

In His service,

Karohn Young

Principal, Berean Christian Junior Academy