

**SKINNER MIDDLE SCHOOL**3435 WEST 40<sup>TH</sup> AVE  
DENVER, CO 80211  
720-424-1420

Discover a World of Opportunity™

Fall, 2016

Dear Prospective Skinner Middle School Family,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you as a potential member of the Skinner Middle School family. I know you have some important choices to make in the upcoming months and I would like to help you make an informed choice by previewing what we have to offer. Like the National Middle School Association, Skinner believes that a developmentally responsive middle school is characterized by: a shared vision, educators who are committed to young adolescents, a positive school climate, an adult advocate for every student, family and community partnerships and high expectations for all. Perhaps these features can best be described through a glimpse into a day in the life of a Skinner Scholar.

A Skinner Middle School student walks through the front doors of a beautiful, historic building built in 1921 and updated for 21<sup>st</sup> Century students. We have four state-of-the-art computer labs, Promethean boards in all classrooms, plenty of additional Chromebook and iPad classroom sets, a large, light-filled library staffed with a full time librarian, two gyms, an indoor swimming pool and a renovated auditorium.

The student enters first period Learning Family led by a Learning Family Mentor. A student's Learning Family Mentor checks homework and attendance, calls home to discuss academics and teaches character-building and does fun teambuilding activities with the group. The Mentor and student relationship is a critical component of the transition to middle school and a structure that incoming families particularly appreciate.

The student then passes to rigorous Core and Core+ classes. Some students are enrolled in Honors courses while others receive Reading or Math Intervention. Core+ classes like Spanish, band, orchestra, wood shop and STEM ensure development of the "whole child". Our teachers participate in weekly professional development with their teams focused on shared academic goals and specific ways to meet the academic needs of all young adolescent learners, including students in Honors and identified as GT and HGT.

Members of our Social/Emotional team are available on a daily basis to provide support with the Restorative Practice methodology and other counseling and social/emotional support. The Skinner Prevention and Intervention Plan helps the student make good choices by clearly outlining behavioral expectations. When the student models good behavior, there is a chance that s/he will be "Caught in the Act" and entered into a weekly prize drawing.

Students come together on a monthly basis during grade-level Family Meetings during which they are recognized individually for outstanding growth, achievement, attendance or modeling our focused school character traits, the "5 B's". Members of the student body have the opportunity to earn an invitation to monthly Celebrations which range from ice cream socials to dances to swimming parties at Regis University.

When the last period bell rings, the day has just begun. The student can choose from a variety of after school activities including: robust team sports offerings, tutoring, cooking classes, swimming, tennis, robotics, silk-screening and a host of other activities through our Neighborhood Center.

Skinner Middle School is a dynamic community of students and staff in a constant pursuit of high levels of academic and personal achievement. Skinner Middle School is a quality school right in the heart of the Northwest Denver Community. It would be my personal pleasure to welcome you to our family.

Sincerely,

Michelle Koyama  
Principal*Educating and motivating life-long learners who explore, create and achieve*