

November 4, 2008

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Congratulations! Your son/daughter is eligible to participate in a special program that has evolved out of a collaborative effort between Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) and ASPIRA Early College. Your son/daughter's eligibility is based on earning a cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.0 or above. As you know, the mission of ASPIRA Early College is to prepare students to be eligible to take a college course by their junior year of high school. To that end, we seek to expose students to college experiences and have outlined the following program for your son/daughter that involves the following:

- Meetings with advisors from Northeastern Illinois University that cover a variety of topics including the college admissions process, financial aid, course selections, student organizations.
- Attending a college class at El Centro in one of several subject areas including Political Science, Biology, Psychology, Women's Studies, English and Mathematics.

This program will take place November 17-21, 2008 at El Centro located on the first floor of our building, 3986 W. Barry. Please note that should you choose to give consent for your son/daughter to participate it will be a very demanding week for him/her. An advisor from Northeastern Illinois University will give presentations on the aforementioned topics from 4:30-5:30pm. Students will be provided with dinner 5:30-6:00pm, and will then attend class. Northeastern Illinois University classes at El Centro classes typically begin at 6:10pm; depending on whether the class meets once a week or twice a week ends at 8:50pm or 7:40pm, respectively. Students participating in the program must attend all meetings with the Northeastern Illinois University Advisor from 4:30-5:30pm from November 17-20. However, students will attend only one class. Once your son/daughter's placement in a college course has been confirmed you will be contacted with exact dates. Finally, on Friday, November 21 4:30-6:30pm parents are invited to attend presentations that all participating students will be giving on what they learned as a result of attending a college class.

Please sign the enclosed consent form granting or denying permission for your son/daughter to participate in the program as well as the media waiver by Wednesday, November 5, 2008. Students must return signed consent forms and waivers to their homeroom teachers at the beginning of first period on Wednesday, November 5, 2008.

I strongly encourage you to contact me or your child's Academic Advisor with questions or concerns. You can reach me at (773)252-0970x634 or on my cell phone (773)629-3748.

Sincerely,

Karen N. Ekpenyong
Principal

Enclosures