



CLEVELAND ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES ACADEMY

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you well and enjoying a positive and productive school year so far. I want to take a moment to share some information about an important initiative we're implementing over the next six weeks—our **Behavioral Matrix Focus Cycle**—and how it will play a role in student evaluation during this time.

As part of our commitment to nurturing not just academic growth but also social and emotional development, we've designed a **six-week behavioral matrix** that highlights core expectations and values we believe are essential for a thriving learning environment. These include behaviors such as respect, responsibility, perseverance, teamwork, and self-regulation.

During this six-week period, we are shifting the focus in certain areas away from traditional academic grades. Instead, we will be assessing students **based on their participation, effort, and demonstration of key behavioral skills outlined in the matrix**. This does not mean academics are being put aside; instead, we are intentionally creating space to guide, observe, and support students in practicing behaviors that contribute to both personal and academic success.

This approach allows us to:

- Reinforce school-wide expectations in a consistent and supportive way
- Recognize students for positive contributions beyond test scores
- Help students reflect on and take ownership of their behavior and its impact
- Provide targeted support for those who may need help building specific skills

We understand that this is a shift, and we want to assure you that student learning remains our top priority. The behavioral matrix is not about penalizing students—it's about teaching and reinforcing habits that will serve them throughout life. Grades earned through this matrix are meant to reflect engagement with these goals and the effort students put into meeting them.

We genuinely believe this focus will help foster a more respectful, responsible, and resilient school culture—and we value your support in making it successful. We encourage you to talk with your child about the expectations each week and to celebrate the progress they make, no matter how big or small.

If you have any questions or concerns about how this may impact your child, please don't hesitate to reach out. We are here to partner with you and ensure every student has the tools they need to succeed, both inside and outside the classroom.

With appreciation,

Jesse V. Williams, Jr.

Principal