

# Team ALE

July 1, 2013

To the Parent/Guardian of your **newest Team Yale member**,

My name is **Greg Vickers** and I am the team leader of **Team Yale**, your child's team at Illing Middle School! The team and I would like to welcome you and your child to the 2013-2014 school year! We are all very excited to kick off a brand new school year with your child and are anticipating a year packed full of success!

You will be happy to know that your child's team consists of an amazing line up of teachers who are eager to work with both you and your student. I teach Social Studies, am entering my sixth year of teaching and I am originally from Texas, love spicy foods, traveling, and



spending time with my nineteen year old son (who is an Illing alumni!). **Ryan T. Parker** teaches eighth grade Language Arts! Not only does he love snowboarding, basketball, hip hop, poetry and chocolate chip cookies, he absolutely loves to teach and will be entering his tenth year in the district. Teaching Science is **Melanie Brown** who will be entering her third year of teaching! Melanie likes the arts, drawing, painting, photographing the outdoors, and being outside. David Lee, our Enrichment teacher, will be entering his sixteenth year of teaching, loves reading (he read 47 books last summer!), has coached five (5) Odyssey of the Mind teams to the World Competition, and loves playing tennis! **Jennifer Webster**, our amazing Math teacher, is entering her fifth year of teaching in the Manchester district and is the Math Department Facilitator.

Jennifer loves scrapbooking, quilting, homemade empanadas, and can write in many "math languages", such as Egyptian, ancient Chinese and Japanese, and ancient Babylonian! **Nelson Diaz, Jr.**, who will be teaching seventh and eighth grade Language Arts for his first year in the district, hails from New York City! Nelson enjoys writing, performing and listening to slam poetry, watching and playing basketball; devouring good Spanish food and spending time with his wife and their 18 month old daughter! Together, we are excited to create a successful learning environment for your child, filled with energy, creativity, and optimism!



While our primary focus this year will be academics and preparing your student for future successes, our team will also be focusing on creating a strong sense of community and family. Your child will benefit from elements such as smaller class sizes, community based field trips, and consistent recognition of academic and behavioral successes. We will strive to help students develop pride in themselves and respect for their learning. Our team will have a variety of inspirational themes such as, perseverance, self-control, and compassion. As teachers we will foster strength, confidence and a personal work-ethic in our students, which will be applicable to real-world expectations. One of our essential mottos on team will be, "School is practice for the real-world." Please share this motto with your child!

We believe it will be important for us (student, teacher, & guardian) to work as a team in order to create the best learning experience for your child. Team Yale teachers heavily emphasize parent/guardian contact and will text, call, and email on a regular basis; we encourage open communication! One way you can prepare your child for the upcoming year, is to provide them with academic supplies which would help to ensure success, such as the following:

- White, lined notebook paper (recycled is fine)
- A pencil/pen pouch or binder
- MUCHO #2 pencils (mechanical is ok)
- Blue or black ink pens
- 5 pocket folders of different colors (one HW folder would be great!)
- 1 notebook with separate dividers (or an accordion folder/binder)
- Access to a dictionary at home
- A Manchester Public Library Card ☺



We look forward to working with you and your child soon! Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Sincerely,

Greg Vickers