

# CONVERSE MIDDLE SCHOOL

24 Converse Street

Palmer, MA 01069-1797

(413) 283-8109 (413) 283-2655 (FAX)

David G. Stetkiewicz  
Principal

Jackie Haley  
Assistant Principal

October 9, 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian:

**Your child may be eligible for tutoring that takes place outside of regular school hours, at no cost to you.**

According to the federal No Child Left Behind act of 2001 ([www.nclb.org](http://www.nclb.org)), schools receiving Title I funding that are in their second year or more of Needs Improvement status must offer supplemental educational services to eligible students. These services are designed to help students achieve state standards in reading, writing, and mathematics. Possible locations may include the school, your home, a local library or community center, or the internet (computers).

As required by law, the district has determined which children are eligible for services based on family income level (eligible for free or reduced lunch). In order to receive services, parents/guardians must request the services and select a provider from a state list of approved providers. The Massachusetts Department of Education has designated approved supplemental service providers for students from our district. A brief description of three of these providers is attached. A complete list of providers in Massachusetts can be found at:

<http://www.doe.mass.edu/ses/results.asp>

If you are interested in your child receiving supplemental academic services from one of the designated providers, please complete the form on the reverse side of this letter and return to the school by October 19, 2009. If you are unsure which provider to choose, please check the appropriate line on the reverse side of this letter and I will contact you to provide you with a recommendation based on your child's needs.

All requests will be reviewed and you will be notified as to whether or not your child will be eligible to receive the services. The federal government establishes a maximum dollar amount that our school must make available for supplemental services. If funding does not allow our school to fulfill all requests, priority will be given to students based on objective criteria that relates to academic achievement. Transportation for your child to attend any of the outside programs will be your responsibility. If you are notified that your child has been selected to participate in this program, our school and the provider, will enter into an agreement with you regarding the services.

Sincerely,

David Stetkiewicz, Principal

*An Equal Opportunity Employer*

*The Palmer Public Schools do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, or national origin.*

# Supplemental Educational Services

## Instructions to Parents:

Please complete the information below. Place a number one or two beside the supplemental educational service provider listed below indicating your first and second choice for academic supports for your child. You will be contacted sometime after October 19, 2009 to arrange for the beginning of the supplemental educational supports.

Please return this completed, signed form to your child's homeroom teacher **no later than Monday, October 19, 2009**



\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Grade

\_\_\_\_\_ Cougar's Den / Hampshire Educational Collaborative

\_\_\_\_\_ Learning Styles

\_\_\_\_\_ Brainfuse

\_\_\_\_\_ I am unsure which provider to choose. I would like to be contacted to discuss which program will best meet my child needs.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## **Supplemental Educational Services Providers**

Below is a description of the supplemental services supplied by the provider.

### **Cougar's Den / Hampshire Educational Collaborative**

The Cougar's Den after-school program (located at Converse Middle School), through the Hampshire Educational Collaborative, will offer a tutoring program to students in grades 5-7. Instruction in small groups of 3-5 students, given by trained teachers to raise achievement in math. The curriculum used will help students master the concepts in the MA Curriculum Frameworks and pass the MCAS. Students will be taught through direct instruction by teachers and by teacher-guided use of self-paced computer learning materials that have demonstrated effectiveness. Fun activities will be offered to students who attend, work hard and master units. Parents and school staff will be frequently involved in the student's program and progress.

### **Learning Styles L.L.C.**

For 22 years Learning Styles has worked with thousands of students to improve their reading, written expression, math and organizational skills. We are learning specialists and provide one-on-one tutoring for students at all grade levels. Individual plans are developed and taught by highly qualified tutors. First, we assess each student to find strength areas, challenges, and needs. Then we help each student to set goals. We use programs and strategies designed to help students quickly learn the skills they need. Our mission is to help students become organized and independent learners. We have experience with Limited English Proficient (LEP) students, and students with disabilities.

If student and parent agree, the parent or a mentor is invited to observe our tutoring sessions. A typical session lasts from 60 to 90 minutes. We provide feedback after each session in the form of a session recap explaining what the student has accomplished during the session. This session recap can be e-mailed home and is also sent home by mail each month.

### **Brainfuse**

Brainfuse is the nation's leading provider of online tutoring to schools. With Brainfuse, students and tutors communicate in real-time through our easy-to-use online classroom. Since Brainfuse is available from any computer with Internet access, travel time to and from sessions is eliminated, and students have more time to learn. Independent studies have confirmed that Brainfuse significantly boosts test scores and improves classroom performance. Our tutors are experienced educators who undergo a rigorous certification process, including background and reference checks, multiple interviews, skills testing, and extensive training. We offer live tutoring from skilled instructors in math, reading, and ESL (grades 4-12). Progress reports are regularly provided (in the parent's native language). Experience with Limited English Proficient (LEP) students, and students with disabilities.

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