

Col. E. Brooke Lee Middle School

11800 Monticello Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20902
(301) 649-8100

September 4, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians:

President Barack H. Obama plans to address the nation's students about the importance of education on Tuesday, September 8th, at noon, for approximately 20 minutes. While our school has been in session for the past week, Tuesday is the opening school day for most of the nation's schools.

While this broadcast provides an opportunity for students to hear a national message about the importance of education, all Montgomery County Public Schools have the discretion to determine whether or not to provide the broadcast. Our leadership team and staff have discussed this issue. I have also received input from our PTSA President, Mr. Ricky Ford. Based on the feedback and discussions that have occurred, Col. E. Brooke Lee Middle School students will be given an opportunity to view President Obama's speech on Wednesday, September 9th, during the student advisory period at 8:50am. Please note, Col. E. Brooke Lee Middle School does not plan to do any pre-or post-activities, discussions, nor assignments with students regarding President Obama's speech. We will simply allow the comments from the President to stand on their own.

I understand there may be parents/guardians or students who do not wish to participate (*please see form below*), and as with other topics, such as some calendar events/holidays that are not recognized or celebrated by all families, these diverse perspectives within our school community should be respected. An alternative instructional activity will be provided in the media center, as we do for Family Life Education, Halloween activities, etc. Students opting not to view President Obama's message will be allowed to read, work on *Fastt-Math*, or complete another school assignment.

For more information, you may go to the following website for information about the broadcast:
www.ed.gov/admins/lead/academic/bts.html.

If you choose to view the President's remarks at home you can view them after the original broadcast via the White House web site, <http://www.whitehouse.gov/mediaresources/>, as well as on www.ed.gov.

The following are resources on the Internet that you can use with your children if you do plan to watch the speech at home:

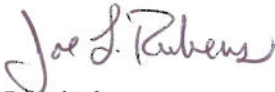
Frequently Asked Questions (<http://www.ed.gov/admins/lead/academic/bts.html#faqs>)

Classroom Activities (Pre-K-6) (<http://www.ed.gov/teachers/how/lessons/prek-6pdf>)

Classroom Activities (7-12) (<http://www.ed.gov/teachers/how/lessons/7-12.pdf>)

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Joe L. Rubens



Principal

----- Please return to your advisory teacher by Sept. 8th-----

I prefer that my daughter/son, _____, NOT watch the Presidents' Address on
September 9, 2009. Name of Student

Parent's Name Printed

Parent's Signature/Date