

January 22, 2010

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians,



**Second Semester at The Reality Center!** We are glad your child has recently visited our community center, now in our second year of operation. In case you didn't know our location, we are on the corner of Gregson and Lamond Ave., directly across the street from Durham School of the Arts. Our after school facilities and programs are open 3:45–6:00 pm every day that the public schools are in session. Please visit us any time!

The RC is owned and operated by *Reality Ministries Incorporated*, an independent, non-profit ministry. We are governed by a Board comprised of local civic and religious leaders, but we are not a church, nor are we connected to any denomination. Please visit our website at [www.realityministriesinc.org](http://www.realityministriesinc.org) for more information. Or, better yet, please feel free to drop by anytime, tour the facility and meet our on-site staff.

We call our community center *The Reality Center* because we want this place to be a safe, warm and enriching environment where, in spoken and unspoken ways, the young people of Durham can know that the deepest Reality of their lives is God's love for them. *The RC is open to adolescents of all faiths and belief systems. Discrimination based on gender, race or religion will not be tolerated at any time.*

**The second semester will look a little different, so we wanted to outline these changes for everyone involved:**

1. **R.A.P. (Real Academic Progress)**: It's true that our after school program is a great place to have fun, play games and make friends. But we all want to make sure that the RC is a place where each student gets all the personal attention they need for academic success. So, we are asking the students to tell us their grades, confidentially and privately. We are then assigning a trained mentor, what we call a "coach," to each student who want or could use the academic assistance and personal attention. Each coach will come alongside the student and do everything possible to support and help the student to succeed. We really, really want to partner with the student and the parent/guardian in this process!
2. **New Daily Schedule**: In addition to our daily tutoring lab, we will be offering many exciting small group classes. Please look carefully at the reverse side of the page to see when these sessions are offered to the students. You will see that on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, from 5:00-6:00 pm, there is everything from cooking to sign language, from discussion groups to arts classes and advice on how to handle money wisely. ***Here's the change: On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, from 5:00-6:00 pm, those students choosing not to participate in those sessions will need to leave the RC for the remainder of that day.*** We appreciate your cooperation in making any changes in transportation arrangements.

Again, we take great joy in our work at the **RC**, and we hope that everyone involved with us here will find inspiration, love and great fun. Please call us with any questions or concerns.

All the Best,

Olivia Korman, Volunteer/Program Coordinator

Steve Larson, Reality Center Coordinator