

## FAQ: What is The Hub?

The Hub is a school-based youth services program managed by **Family Connections, Inc.** and funded by New Jersey Department of Children and Families. Eleven years ago, Family Connections was invited to be a partner with the South Orange -Maplewood School District to create The Hub to provide a variety of services at Maplewood Middle School including therapeutic recreation, academic support, counseling, and **enrichment activities.**

**Family Connections (familyconnectionsnj.org)** is a non-profit social services agency based in the Oranges with more than 30 specialized programs and services including outpatient mental health, substance abuse services, in-home counseling for children, prevention, and other therapeutic services.

**Enrichment Activities** include **groups** (Girls Empowerment Group, Boys Empowerment, Chat n Chew lunch program, and PREP group), **field trips** (e.g., Rebounderz of Edison, Splashplex, bowling, ice skating, movies, etc.), **events** (e.g., Black History Month activities, multicultural potluck, costume party, ice cream social, etc.), **recreation** (e.g., videogames, basketball, board games), and **clubs** (arts n crafts club, homework club). The Hub also has a **mentor program** in which Columbia High School student mentors meet monthly with MMS students. **The Hub/Youthnet Homework Club** meets in the MMS library three times a week and students can earn coupons for ice cream, pizza/drink, and fries/drink for every 2-4 hours of work that they complete. Students can also receive candy for A's and B's on tests and homework.

### How much does it cost?

It's **FREE!** The NJ Department of Families and Children provides an annual grant to pay for all supplies and activities.

## **How do I enroll my child in The Hub?**

A **signed consent form** is all that is needed to enroll at student at The Hub. Consent forms are included in the packet of information sent home with your child on the first day and posted on The Hub's bulletin board right outside the theater. Students can stop by The Hub office (next to the cafeteria) to pick up a consent form starting on the first day of school.

## **When is it open?**

The Hub is open from 9:30 am to 5:30 pm during regular school days and 12:30-3pm during half days. We are open during Spring Break and other school holidays when the district is open from 12 to 3pm unless we have a field trip.

## **What does non-custodial supervision mean?**

All services at The Hub are voluntary and students choose to participate in our programs and services. We keep daily attendance and supervise them closely while they are in the program, but we are not able to monitor where the students go prior to or after leaving The Hub.

## **Who works at The Hub?**

**Coordinator:** Candice Ebbesen is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in the State of NJ. She has been working with kids at Family Connections for the past ten years.

**Counselor:** Marie-Cassandra Jeanty, MA has been a counselor at The Hub for the past 11 years. She is fluent in Haitian-Creole. Ms. Jeanty is available to meet with students during lunch and after school if they need assistance with academic and social/emotional issues.

## **Youth Development Specialists:**

Sarah McCormack has been at The Hub for the past seven years and manages our Homework Club.

Mr. E has been at The Hub for over two years. He supervises daily activities during lunch and after school.