**September 2014 Grade 8 Writing Assessment**

**Directions:** Choose **ONE** of the following prompts. Please respond by following all of the directions within the question/prompt. Be sure to write neatly and use complete sentences. Please use a separate sheet of paper for your response. Your response should be written in essay format (Introduction, At least one Body Paragraph, and a Conclusion). Please fully support your opinions/statements with specific reasons and examples.

**Prompts (Choose ONE)**

**Prompt #1:** If you could choose a super power, what would you choose? Would you choose to be invisible? Would you select the ability of flight? Would you select a power that allowed you to become indestructible? Or, would you select another power that gave you your ideal ability? Please choose a super-human ability and explain why it is the best super power. Tell me what you would do with that super power and convince your audience that they should also want that super power.

**Prompt #2:** A wealthy donor plans to build a new facility that will benefit young people in your area. It could be a swimming pool, a theater, a skateboard park, an art school, or any other facility that would provide young people with constructive ways to spend their time. The donor is not sure what kind of facility would be most useful. Write a persuasive essay/proposal to the donor identifying the type of facility you would like to have built, and persuade him/her that your building is the best choice for her. Be sure to support your opinion with convincing reasons and evidence.

**Prompt #3:** Your principal wants to invite a celebrity speaker to your school. Think about the celebrity you would choose to have speak; then, write a letter to persuade your principal to invite this person. Write a persuasive essay/proposal to your principal explaining who you would like to have speak to your school and why. Be sure to include convincing reasons and details to support your choice.

**Prompt #4:** Every year, you and your fellow classmates go on a field trip. The students usually do not like where the school goes for the field trip. You have the opportunity to plan a field trip for your grade level. You will be allowed to decide where you go and what you will do while on the trip. You should write a persuasive essay/proposal to the principal of your school about planning this trip. You must persuade him that you have found the perfect location and have arranged plans for all students while on this trip.

**Prompt #5:** Girls and boys often enjoy playing the same sport. Some people believe that girls and boys should be able to play on the same team. However, some people believe that they should remain separate. What is your opinion on this issue? Write an essay stating your opinion and supporting it with convincing reasons and examples that support the way you feel. Be sure to explain your reasons in detail.