



Cloonan Middle School

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*Principal David Rudolph
Assistant Principal Laureen Mody
Assistant Principal David Tate*

September 4, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians:

In an address on Tuesday, September 8th, President Obama will deliver a national address to the America’s students and welcome them back to school. During this special address, the president will speak directly to the nation’s children and youth about persisting and succeeding in school. The president will challenge students to work hard, set educational goals, and take responsibility for their learning.

At Cloonan we plan to participate in this historic moment by watching President Obama deliver the address in the auditorium and follow this in the classrooms with a balanced discussion on the importance of education.

To further encourage student engagement, the U.S. Department of Education is launching the “*I Am What I Learn*” video contest. On September 8, students will have the opportunity to respond to the president’s challenge by creating videos, up to two minutes in length, describing the steps they will take to improve their education and the role education will play in fulfilling their dreams. Students age 13 and older, are invited to create and upload their videos to YouTube by October 8. (Submissions can be in the form of video blogs, public service announcements (PSAs), music videos, or documentaries). Students are encouraged to have fun and be creative with this project! The general public will then vote on their favorites to determine the top 20 finalists. These 20 videos will be reviewed by a panel of judges including U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan. The panel will choose three winners, each of whom will receive a \$1,000 cash prize. Starting this Friday, you can visit <<http://www.ed.gov/iamwhatilearn>> to find out more.

Sincerely,

David Rudolph

Laureen Mody

David Tate

Please complete and return the portion below

Student’s Name _____

Homeroom _____

My signature indicates receipt of this letter.

Parent (Guardian) Signature

Date