

**Michelle Obama School
of Technology and the Arts**
530 Lakewood
Park Forest, IL 60466
Phone 708-668-9600
Fax 708-395-2516



Kristin B. Foster, Principal
TJ Lee, Assistant Principal

Dear Patriot Partner,

You are receiving this letter because your 4th grader has been invited to participate in our newest literacy initiative, a partnership with “Sweet Reads! A Literacy Initiative”. The Sweet Reads program was developed by Stephanie Pearson-Davis, Founder of “It Could Be Your Kid”, a registered 501(c)(3) organization with a mission to eradicate bullying and racism while increasing literacy. Through this partnership, we hope to encourage your child’s love of reading through great literature, FUN activities, and a peer space for additional engagement!

Sweet Reads! is a literacy initiative that primarily provides books to children in grades 3-12 that are written by authors who identify as members of a racial or ethnic minority group. Sweet Reads is a layered initiative. In addition to providing Michelle Obama School with books, selected students will receive an opportunity to participate in a weekly 1 hour book club held each Friday afternoon, March 19 through May 28, 12:50-1:50PM. In the Friday book club, students will:

- engage in a safe space (decompress and socialize purposefully with peers)
- develop their capacity for social emotional intelligence
- cultivate higher order thinking skills
- increase literacy
- improve self pride and self esteem
- close the access gap
- reduce truancy and interaction with school discipline

Students who participate in the program will receive a Sweet Reads! kit that includes two novels and other goodies! This is an impactful program that we believe will provide great benefit to those who come each Friday. There is no commitment other than engagement and time. Once we receive your submitted consent form, we will contact you to schedule receipt of your Sweet Reads! kit. Feel free to contact me directly should you have any questions, 708-668-9610 or kfoster@sd163.com.

Please click here to provide consent via [online form](#).

Rising to excellence,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'KB Foster'.

Kristin B. Foster, Principal
Michelle Obama School of Technology and the Arts

Michelle Obama School
of Technology and the Arts
530 Lakewood
Park Forest, IL 60466
Phone 708-668-9600
Fax 708-395-2516



Kristin B. Foster, Principal
TJ Lee, Assistant Principal

Sweet Reads

Increasing literacy one book at a time

Funding provided in whole or in part by the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority in partnership with Cook County Southland Juvenile Justice Council.

THE PROGRAM

This literacy program provides participants with books and access to a weekly book club facilitated by a certified teacher. During each book club, participants will engage in mindfulness moments, social emotional learning activities, guided inquiry, peer dialogue, written reflection and receive a sweet treat.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Covid-19 has wreaked havoc on the education system. It has also highlighted racial and educational disparities in Black and Brown communities. Achievement disparities have long been an obstacle in Black, LatinX and low income communities. We believe those disparities exist due to opportunity and access inequity; not ability. Sweet Reads exists to remove obstacles that prevent parity. It Could Be Your Kid created Sweet Reads after hosting anti-racism book clubs and sponsoring book giveaways. Combining the two makes a SWEET pairing!

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

- 01** Provide access to books, inspire a lifelong love for reading and increase academic performance in all classes, particularly ELA.
- 02** Reinforce social emotional capacity through inquiry and reflection.
- 03** Build and cultivate relationships with peers over mutual and diverse topics through oral communication.
- 04** Reduce and eliminate participant contact with school disciplinary action and the juvenile justice system.



Michelle Obama School
of Technology and the Arts
530 Lakewood
Park Forest, IL 60466
Phone 708-668-9600
Fax 708-395-2516

Kristin B. Foster, Principal
TJ Lee, Assistant Principal



IT COULD BE
YOUR KID 
a registered 501(C)(3)

Sweet Reads!
Increasing literacy one book at a time

Funding provided in whole or in part by the Illinois
Criminal Justice Information Authority in partnership
with Cook County Southland Juvenile Justice Council.

Grades 3 through 12

**REGISTER
TODAY**

www.itcouldbeyourkid.org

JOURNALS! SWAG BAG!
BOOK CLUB! **FREE** FUN!
SCHOOL SUPPLIES! **AND MORE!** BOOKS!

* This programming is exclusively available
to residents of:
BLOOM, BREMEN, RICH and THORNTON
Townships

Like us on social media:   

