Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in Chestnut TAG Middle School. We understand that selecting the right school is a very important decision for you and your family. I am excited that you are considering Chestnut TAG as your middle school.

As the principal of TAG, I am pleased to let you know that TAG is a community where students are surrounded by peers and staff who are committed to creating a supportive and challenging learning environment. At TAG we work together to prepare our students to develop the habits and mindsets to prepare them for advanced placement and college level classes while in high school. The atmosphere at TAG is academically centered and the students are challenged to grow their skills and confidence.

Currently there is rolling admissions to the TAG program and accepted students will fill a limited number of openings. I encourage you and your child to complete and submit this application as soon as possible. I sincerely look forward to meeting you.

*Dr. Declan O’Connor*

*Principal of Chestnut Middle School Talented and Gifted*

“Empowering Students for Academic Excellence”

**Please follow the instructions within the application:**

* **Review Critera in Section 1 to ensure your student is eligible to apply and provide the documents listed**
* **Fill in the basic contact information in Section 2**
* **Review the essay prompts in Section 3**

**When completed please send the application to:**

**Guidance Department**

**Chestnut Middle School Talented and Gifted**

**355 Plainfield Street**

**Springfield MA 01107**

**SECTION ONE: CRITERA**

*Springfield students are eligible to apply to Chestnut TAG if they have:*

* *Earned Meeting or Exceeding Expectations MCAS assessment*
* *Maintained attendance of 95% or better in this previous year*
* *Maintained a C+ or better in ELA, Math, Science and Social Studies in 5th grade*
* *Have fewer than 4 write ups in their 5th (or previous) grade year. The write ups must only be in the G1 category (general disruptive behavior).*

***In order for the application to be complete and your child to be considered you must:***

* *Provide one letter of recommendation from a current teacher or community sponsor*
* *Complete the short answer and essay in Section 3*
* *Complete a short math exam at Chestnut Talented and Gifted*

**SECTION 2: BASIC INFORMATION**

**Parent Name: Contact Number:**

**Student Name: Student grade level:**

**Current School:**

**If the current school is a charter school or is outside of the city of Springfield, please list a contact person (ex. Guidance counselor):**

**Is your student on an IEP or 504? Yes No**

 **If yes, please briefly describe:**

**SECTION 3: ESSAY PROMPTS**

***Answers for the short answer and essay prompts should be typed or legibly handwritten. Short answers (Questions 1 & 2) should be no longer than 200 words and the essay (question 3) should be no longer than 500 words.***

1) What was your favorite novel or text that you read this year? Explain using specific details what you learned from reading the text. (200 words or less)

2) What do you love and what do you find challenging about math? (200 words or less)

3) The definition of perseverance is: “doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success”. Describe a time in your life where you have had to preserver through a challenge. What did you learn from that experience? How has that experience influenced the way that you approach school? (500 words or less)