

***How the Rockford Park District 21<sup>st</sup> Century After School Program @ Kennedy Middle School (KMS) appreciates Mr. Carl Cole aka Mr. C!***

In the beginning the students weren't too sure of Mr. C. However, it didn't take long for him to connect with the KMS Students with his rhyming sayings and his humorous approach.

Mr. C has a very clever approach when it comes to sensitive topics; and the way the students respond is Simply Amazing. They'll laugh, but not to be disrespectful. Mr. C knows how to get the students to converse and have a real conversation. He gets them to think outside the box.

Mr. C is so good at motivating the students, even if they asks a silly, inappropriate off topic question. He just cleans it up, lets them know what they really meant to say, and assures them that no one will make fun of the question that was asked...and He turns it around and makes the student feel good, look good and at ease about what they've asked. No shame or embarrassment...just encouragement.

At the end of our 2015/2016 school year, Mr. C mentioned he could come to KMS a couple of more times past the agreed contract (per request of the Students). I most definitely took advantage of that opportunity for the Students to be graced with his knowledge, wisdom, and charisma.

This year, students are already asking, "is Mr. C coming today". I even catch the students mimic Mr. C by saying, "Y'all don't hear me" and other sayings. I do know whether they showing it now or not, they are listening, and they like it when Mr. C comes to spend time with them.

I must say Today's behavior in Youth are quite a challenge. However, when Mr. C comes, he has yet to have any issues with behavior, which says a lot about him and what the KMS students think of him. Truly, Mr. C has a special way with all of us at the after school program and we are truly blessed to have him as a Vital part of our After School Program.

"Thank You, Mr. C!"!

Respectfully,

Ms. Francesca I. Montanez  
Site Coordinator KMS