

Hello my name is Cornelius Bell and I am the site coordinator for Communities In Schools located at LMCMS. It is truly an honor and privilege to represent CIS, LMCMS and LPS today.

During the past year it has been my goal to promote the CIS five basics for all young people;

- A one on one relationship with a caring adult
- A safe place to learn and grow
- A healthy start and healthy future
- A marketable skill to use upon graduation
- A chance to give back to peers and community

Last Spring and Fall of 2014 CIS hosted a successful Community Fair at LMCMS, which was held during Parent/Teacher Conferences. This event included over 15 community partners that shared information about their organizations (ranging from academics to health and safety) and how they help students and their families succeed throughout the community.

Also this past fall, Mr. "E" the Motivator returned to our school district bringing his enthusiastic approach to bully prevention and Character building to LMCMS. Several CIS students were involved with planning and implementing the program throughout the school year.

Communities In Schools at LMCMS has teamed with the KU YES Tutoring program. This program provides additional academic support for our weekly Homework Zone. KU tutors volunteer at our school on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. This has helped our students complete classwork and homework and lower incidents of missing assignments for those that attend on a regular basis.

CIS is also a co-sponsor of Conversation PEACE (Purpose, Equity, Accountability, Character, and Education). CP provides students with a safe and peaceful place to talk about difficult issues bringing a positive change through courageous conversations. This was demonstrated during the height of the Ferguson, MO unrest, when CP and CIS invited LPD Chief Tarik Khatib to LMCMS for a discussion on the role of Law Enforcement in our Community. Also invited to attend a second discussion was a member of the Douglas County Sheriff's department. Both discussions were well received by our students.

Most recently CP and CIS honored Law Enforcement by giving certificates of appreciation to LPD, KU, KS Highway Patrol, and the Douglas County Sheriff's department. CIS and CP also co-sponsored the LMCMS annual MLK program and awards.

I have shared just a few of our level 1 activities; this year we are preparing a Technology Night for parents, a Community Fair, Health and Safety events which will include Safe Routes to School, Helmet safety, Dental Health, and Athletic physicals.

Thank you, and I appreciate your time today.

