#### 2013-2014

Dear Parent/ Guardian;

Your student is enrolled in the Engineering Design program at this school. My name is Courtney Bryant. I am a member of the staff at Drew and feel privileged to have the opportunity to work with you and your student. I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself and the vision for our program at Drew Charter School. Please permit me to inform you about some of the features of our program.

**Coursework:** This class will complement and extend the learning that occurs throughout Drew. Students will learn through Project Based Learning. Much like being an engineer or designer in the real world, students will be given a problem to solve and will be asked to work towards a solution using the design process outlined by the James Dyson Foundation and Georgia Tech’s College of Architecture. Students will research, make sketches, create prototypes, test their ideas, and evaluate their concept to improve it. Students will find that other academic disciplines will be interwoven into the fabric of this course.

### Goals/Objectives: Corresponding to their grade level, students should be able to:

1. Understand the history of technology and its implications for society and the environment.
2. Understand the career opportunities available within the design field.
3. Understand and utilize the processes involved with invention, innovation, and entrepreneurship.
4. Develop proficiency in the use of design tools and materials by working safely, intelligently, and efficiently.
5. Successfully communicate ideas visually, orally, and through written communication.
6. Creatively solve a given problem in a visually pleasing manner through the use of a combination of art, math, science and technology.
7. Learn how to learn: become true research and development experts.
8. Develop leadership skills while working in teams.

.**Environment:** The lab in which your child will work is spacious, well-equipped, and inviting. It is different from other classrooms in the school. It features an area for group work, presentations, and demonstrations, and we will have access to laptop computers for conducting research and for creating 3-d drawings of their model. There is also an area of the room called the design lab, where design prototypes may be produced (basic hand tools will be used) and tested. I invite you to visit our space.

**Behavioral Expectations:** Safe and respectful behavior is expected at all times. Rules and policies are posted in the classroom and they align with the Drew Student Handbook. Students should follow them to ensure positive consequences. Failure to do so will result in negative consequences, also posted in the classroom. It is expected that students will:

Work hard.

Try new things, even if they seem surprising or odd.

Get along with others.

Speak up even when unsure or scared.

Once again let me say that it is my privilege to work with your student this year and I look forward to getting to know you as well. I have an open door policy and encourage you to be a part of your student’s engineering and design education. Please encourage your child to demonstrate their personal maturity, individual responsibility, and educational curiosity in this class. Technology *is* their future – education gets them there. They have begun an incredible, almost limitless journey.

Your education partner,

Courtney Bryant