



Dear Parent(s):

We are excited about a special day for our Pearson 6th Grade students. We are hosting a daylong retreat for the students that will focus on the value of courage.

Youth Frontiers, Inc. of Minneapolis will present the retreat. This nonprofit, nonpartisan organization has been delivering programs that improve school climate and strengthen student character for over 20 years. Their vision is to change the way young people treat each other in every hallway, lunch line, and classroom of every school in America by teaching such timeless values as kindness, courage, and respect. During the 2013-2014 school year, Youth Frontiers worked with over 90,000 students and educators throughout the nation by delivering nearly 600 retreats. We're looking forward to a wonderful day of learning and building our school community.

On the Courage Retreat, the Youth Frontiers Staff will focus on creating a more inclusive school climate by encouraging students to accept people for who they are, resist following the crowd, and act with moral courage despite their fears.

This high-energy retreat is scheduled for November 18 (Trailblazer Team), November 19 (Explorers Team), November 20 (Discovery Team), and November 21 (Voyager Team) and will be held at the Shakopee Community Center. Please return the permission slip – found on the back of this document - to your student's Advisory teacher no later than Monday, October 13th. We will be leaving Pearson at 9:00 am and returning at 2:20 pm. We will also be providing a pizza lunch and bottled water for your student. ***If your student requires a gluten or dairy free lunch please indicate so on the other side of this letter.***

We encourage parents and caregivers to inquire about the retreat experience once the student returns home by asking the following questions:

- What activities did you find fun?
- What were the small group leaders like?
- What were some of the fears that you discussed with your classmates during the small-group discussions?
- What's a fear you really struggle with?
- What do you think is the most common fear in your class or school?
- What is one thing you can do tomorrow at school to show more courage?

Sincerely,

Pearson 6th Grade Center Teachers

COURAGE Retreat Permission Form

My student _____ has permission to attend the 6th Grade Courage Retreat in November 2014, with their team.

I also acknowledge that if at any point in time if my student's behavior becomes disruptive and they need to be removed from the retreat, that it is my responsibility to pick them up from the Shakopee Community Center when I am notified via phone.

Parent Signature

Parent daytime phone number

Does your child require a gluten free lunch? _____

Does your child require a dairy free lunch? _____