



# Mandarin Middle School

5100 Hood Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32257  
Ph.: 904.292.0555 Fax: 904.260.5415

**Deborah Smith**  
Principal

Responsibility

---

January 22, 2014

Bright Holidays  
Mr. John Forrester, CEO  
24532 Deer Trace Drive  
Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida 32082

Dear Mr. Forrester and the Bright Holidays Team:

I would like to express the gratitude of Mandarin Middle School administration, faculty, and staff. The Bright Holidays organization has had a profound effect on so many families who received holiday gifts and meals during a difficult season. Without your initiative, dedication, and tireless efforts, some may not have had any gifts or pleasant memories during the holidays. Additionally, it renewed their sense of hope that things will get better and people really do care.

With that in mind, one of our receiving families has seven children. The family did not have a home and they were unsure what they were going to do to survive day to day. Thankfully, this family eventually got into public housing. Because someone was concerned and submitted their name for Bright Holidays, they actually had gifts and a nice holiday meal. The mother of this family wrote in her thank you card to Bright Holidays with this message, "May God bless you so much for what you have done for us!"

The work of Bright Holidays is extremely important to our school district in its ongoing efforts to keep children in school and support them academically. Without the contributions of so many involved in donating and volunteering, I'm confident it would not be possible on such a large scale. Everyone associated with your organization has nothing but good things to say.

Thank you for "paying it forward" and making a major impact on the city of Jacksonville.

Sincerely,

*Angela Galyan*

Angela Galyan  
Assistant Principal & Bright Holidays Site Coordinator  
Mandarin Middle School