

September Middle School MPA minutes

Welcome

Brendan Minihan - Interim Head of Middle School

- 26 years in education
- last 8 years head of middle school
- tag line is Joy Lives Here
- seen/heard/welcome/included in the first few weeks
- Study hall built in to the day, use for help from teachers
- Back to School night Tuesday starts at 6:15 in the Horn Theatre

Rebecca Paggit-Mungai - Associate Head of Middle School

- RAB; informal writing assessment
- 60 minutes to plan and 60 minutes to write
- helps with individual writing goals
- Results mid October

Kathryn O'Neill - Middle School Dean of Students

- intro to Student Led clubs tomorrow
- small house competitions happening
- every grade has a Dean

14 day schedule change: to get extra arts rotation. Day 8 is the same as Day 2

Lele Horich, MS Director of Learning Support

- assist students with executive functioning skills, study skills, content questions
- work with teachers to meet the needs of all students; both individually and in faculty meetings
- work with parents to find evaluators who can dive deeper into strengths and challenges
- can recommend and connect parents/students with tutors
- ANYONE can go to the learning center don't need to have a learning plan/formal diagnosis

Brenna LaRose, MS Counselor

- open door policy
- can just stop in to socialize
- Most students are self referrals
- Does not provide therapy in school; will make that recommendation if feels is needed
- Most visits are related to device related (Social), anxiety (situational vs generalized), friendship issues, academic challenges

5th grade: transitioning

- organization
- transitioning between classes
- time management

6th grade: feeling middle school

- friendship shifts
- decision making
- more social engagement outside school

7th grade:

- friendships shift
- academic rigor
- communication skills
- conflict resolution

8th grade:

- transition to upper school
- self-esteem
- solidify and focusing on interests

Parents tips:

Open ended questions

Suspend judgement

Talk about worries

Help build independence