

August 10, 2017

Dear Drauden Point MS Parents & Guardians,

Welcome to the 2017-2018 school year. We are excited to welcome students back to school. We want to alert you that “Middle School” will look a little different this year as we continue to strive to improve teaching, learning and student success. We have made some modifications across all seven middle schools, among these changes:

- All students will now have access to a daily study hall following input from both students and teachers.
- Students will also have daily 55-minute classes in English Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies and PE, and Encore/Band/Choir/Spanish on an “A Day – B Day” schedule.
- Since 2007, middle school students have traveled through their school day and attended class with the same “teams” of students and common teachers. As expected when we made this change 10 years ago, the “Middle School” model helped us to appropriately support students socially, academically and emotionally, however, it created scheduling and staffing challenges.

Therefore, starting this year, we will use a more traditional “Junior High School” model that more closely resembles a typical high school schedule. Students will learn from a variety of teachers and will not necessarily travel through the school day or attend class with the same group of students. This change will continue to prepare students for a successful transition to high school. Our wonderful middle school teachers will adapt much like the students to the new schedule model and will continue to focus on supporting student needs through this change.

- Eighth graders will now be able to take Spanish and earn high school credit after successfully completing Spanish in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Likewise, students in Algebra I Honors will earn high school credit and begin compiling their high school Grade Point Average by successfully completing this course.
- We’re adding Flight Technology, Computer Graphics and Animation to the STEM program this year, and the Computer Curriculum in Encore will now include Coding at the 8<sup>th</sup> grade level.
- Finally, Parent-Teacher conferences will no longer be with teams but with individual teachers. More information for Parent-Teacher Conferences will be available closer to the date.

The “process” of education changes constantly. What will never change is our commitment to ensuring that your child makes consistent growth in achievement, academics, and social-emotional capacity. We rely on the partnership between the school and the home for your student’s success.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the 17-18 school year please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Flynn at 815-577-4900

With regards,

Patrick Flynn, Principal & Paula Sereleas, Director of Curriculum & Instruction