

Dear AMS Families,

We are excited to welcome you to the new school year! We are very much looking forward to partnering with you to make this year a positive and successful one for your child. These three years in middle school are a time of such growth. Our sixth graders come in ready to transition to middle school and by the time they are eighth graders we take pride in their readiness to move on to high school.

We have some exciting changes here this year. We have a new Assistant Principal, Catherine Floresca, who is looking forward to getting to know all of you and your children of course! Additionally, we have created a new space at our school- a Student Success Space, to support students in a variety of ways including developing strategies for social emotional well-being and improved academic performance. Additionally, this will be a space to support our ability to positively address behavioral challenges. Wil Cason who has an MA in counseling and a wealth of experience working with children, social emotional learning, and motivational speaking will support this space.

Additionally, after researching successes in other schools on how to increase a sense of connection, engagement, and social emotional skills for students, we have decided to pilot a new Advisory program this year. We will be forming small classes of about 22 students across all three grade levels with the intent of keeping them together for all three years (8th graders promoting and new 6th graders joining each year). The focus in these classes will be community building and social emotional learning. The Advisory classes will meet every day the first week of school and then will move to once a week for the remainder of the year.

In other exciting news, we will have partial access of the Annex this year. We will have all of our 8th grade English/History classes there as well as our Computer classes, Cobra study, and all Drama classes. The classrooms are beautiful with a lot of natural light and wooden beams. They are equipped with the latest technology for smart projection and sound. The blackbox theater will be a wonderful performance space. And our computer electives will now have the equipment and space they need to learn programming and work with robotics.

With all of those positive developments, we enter into this year excited and ready to receive your children. Growing up is full of bumps and we truly want to partner with you to help your children learn from their experiences and learn more about who they are and who they want to become. Know that the AMS staff is excited and ready to work with your children. I feel so fortunate to work in such a wonderful, diverse and involved community. Please know that my door is open to you.

In partnership,



Deb Brill, Principal