



Middle School Curriculum Night September 18, 2007

Middle School Shared Vision:

- ❖ Brighton Middle School students graduate as competent, responsible, contributing members of our society, prepared to thrive in the diverse environments of high school and the larger community.
- ❖ Brighton Middle School, in partnership with parents and the community, fosters an environment that addresses the distinctive needs and characteristics of young adolescents.

Brighton Middle School Teachers Believe...

- ❖ every teacher must value, enjoy and be prepared to work with middle school-aged students.
- ❖ we must have a shared vision that guides our decisions.
- ❖ it is our duty to create an inviting, supportive and safe environment.
- ❖ high academic and social expectations for every member of this learning community are critical. (students and teachers)
- ❖ students and teachers should be engaged in active learning.
- ❖ there must be an adult advocate in the school for every child.
- ❖ in creating an open and welcoming partnership with our students' families.
- ❖ in implementing policies which foster health, wellness, and safety of your child.

10 Traits we believe about the development of young adolescents

Young adolescents...

1. have unique interests and varied abilities. They need opportunities to express their creativity.
2. identify with their peers and want to belong to a group. They must have opportunities to form positive peer relationships.
3. learn better when they can apply their learning to real-life situations.
4. are curious about their world. They need to be exposed to varied situations for exploration and extension of knowledge.
5. experience rapid and sporadic physical development. They require varied activities and time to be themselves.
6. are self conscious and susceptible to feelings of low self-esteem. They need frequent appreciations and opportunities for success and recognition.
7. are at a time in their lives when they need adults but don't want to admit it. They need caring adult role models and advisors who like and respect them.
8. want to make their own decisions. They need consistency and direction.
9. prefer active over passive learning activities. They need hands-on and cooperative learning experiences.
10. are idealistic and possess a strong sense of fairness; therefore, they require situations appropriate for sharing thoughts, feelings, and attitudes.

Middle School Success Suggestions

Feeding and Caring for Middle Schoolers: 😊

We know students this age have biological clocks that are often inconvenient for school schedules. Please try to help your child get the sleep he/she needs at night. Brain research also indicates a healthy breakfast is critical for success. Consider protein such as peanut butter, eggs, milk, cheese in addition to other healthy foods. Healthy snack foods and lunches will keep your child fueled for the remainder of the day.

Organization and planning are the keys to a smooth year in middle school.

Planners:

We are working hard to make certain students are putting assignments and due dates correctly in their planners.

At home:

1. Please have your student open his/her planner each day after school. Your student should be clear about what homework is due and when. If he/she is uncertain, friends are a back-up resource.
2. Ask your student to plan his/her time. It is helpful both on an afternoon/evening basis as well as looking farther ahead. Give feedback as necessary.
3. Think “coach” – try to use questioning strategies to help your child problem-solve.
4. Have a consistent place available for homework that is distraction-free.

Assignments: Some assignments will be short and due the next day or so, and others will need to be worked on over time.

1. Projects will have an assignment description sheet, and often a rubric (or grading sheet) as well that describes exactly how the project will be graded. Your student may need to be reminded to refer to this.
2. Projects need to be started when the assignment is given, and then worked on in small steps toward completion. This is not always clear, especially to 6th graders. 😊

Communication:

We are your first line of communication. If you have any questions, concerns, (or even compliments!), be sure to contact us.

1. Social or general concerns should be addressed to the homeroom teacher.
2. Specific academic questions go to the appropriate instructor.
2. We can be contacted by email (firstname.lastname@nlcinc.com)
3. Leave messages during class hours. We will return your call.
4. If you have something other than a quick question, we welcome appointments.

Phone # (425) 672-4430

Email addresses: go to www.brightonschool.com and select “Faculty Directory” link