

Dear Parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as your child's school counselor. While some of you have had children complete their middle school years, many of you are experiencing the joys of having a child in the middle school for the first time. As a school counselor, one of my roles is to help your child develop coping skills as they adapt to a new environment that will challenge them academically, socially, and emotionally. I will encourage your child/children to be as independent as appropriately possible and meet these challenges with enthusiasm, confidence, and support.

My hope is for your child to move on to the high school with a strong academic foundation united with emotional integrity that will assist your child long into his or her academic years. Personal achievement and growth are a gratifying part of this process. However, it is important to remember that struggle, insecurity, and even failure are valuable experiences from which to learn and grow. My advice to you, as a parent, is to be patient, understanding, and supportive. I also encourage you to urge your son or daughter to become involved in at least one of the many extra curricular activities the school has to offer. Please regularly visit the district website (www.northshoreschools.org) and read the Principal's Newsletter and the Guidance Department link to apprise yourself of the many wonderful things that will be going on at the middle school this year. Also, I have enclosed a copy of the guidance brochure to expound on all the phases of the middle school in which I am involved.

My normal office hours are from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm. However, during athletic seasons, my hours will be from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm due to my coaching responsibilities. I wish you and your child/children a happy and successful school year. If you have any questions or concerns, please call me at 277-7303.

Sincerely,

John Jackson