

# COUNSELOR'S CORNER

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*Welcome back! Let's make it a great year!*

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## Middle school means "time to get organized"

Middle school requires students to be more independent and better organized. Students move from one classroom to another. A student may not be comfortable with the variety of teachers and their varied expectations, which can be challenging for a child. A parent can listen, sympathize and guide a child through the social and physical maze of adolescence, but it's also important to clearly communicate expectations that they will focus on their work and succeed in school.

## When to contact us ?

If you believe your child is experiencing difficulty at home or at school regarding academic achievement, family changes, social skills, or adjusting to transitions it may be helpful to contact your Certified School Counselor via phone or email.

Another school year is upon us, and we look forward to getting to know all of our new families and reconnecting with all of our previous Murray Bulldogs and their families.

Dorrie Lombardi will continue to be Murray Middle School's Certified School Counselor, and will work with 6<sup>th</sup> Grade student's and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students whose last name begins with A-L. We are excited to have Carly Gordon joining the School Counseling team this year, she will work with 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and 7<sup>th</sup> Grade student's whose last names begin with M-Z.

As School Counselors, our goal is to help every student be the best student they can be; this includes working directly with students as well as collaborating with families and staff. Please let us know if there's anything we can do help your child this year.

Transitioning from elementary to middle school brings many questions and concerns for both parents and students. Moving up to middle can be both scary and exciting. Parents can help their preteens prepare for this transition by gathering information and staying involved in their child's education. Please sign up for Home Access and Live School, which allows you to continuously monitor your child's school work, grades, and behavior.

*Parent /Teacher Conferences can be set up through your students team leader, and we will be happy to participate if not already previously scheduled.*

## HOW TO MAKE THIS YEAR SUCCESSFUL!

### 6<sup>TH</sup> Graders

- 🌸 Students need the help of the parent to learn to stay organized.
- 🌸 Parents should help monitor progress through Home Access and LiveSchool
- 🌸 Students and parents should communicate with each teacher.
- 🌸 Students should utilize a planner.

### 7<sup>th</sup> Graders

- 🌸 No Excuse Zone for behavior and academics
- 🌸 Responsibility and Organization!!!!!!
- 🌸 Make sure you are prepared with all materials
- 🌸 Use your planner
- 🌸 Read Read Read!!!!!!

### 8<sup>th</sup> Graders

- 🌸 Students need to be a good communication link between the school (teachers) and the home (parents).
- 🌸 Be good role models for the rest of the school.
- 🌸 Organization will be crucial for high school preparation.