

Middle School

1. First, I suggested they start with YOU, by asking What should I know about your child to better support him/her? You know your child best!
2. Next, I advised them to really focus on what they are seeing in terms of progress in their class, as teachers have the most direct impact on their learning at school.
3. Then, they are encouraged to verbally share a couple things they already should be put in their Weekly Plans focused on “This is what you can do at home to help your child...”
4. Fifteen minutes is not a whole lot of time, and yet sharing just a few things with each other can be powerful to help your child continue progress for success at the end of the semester and beyond.

LIFE Ready

LIFE Ready and Literate are my goals for all scholars when the Class of 2026, the Class of 2027, the Class of 2028, and the Class of 2029 earns their American High School diploma!

Principal Advisory Board

In other news this week, I am incredibly proud of our Principal Advisory Board for taking hold of their first Mission, with really little time to plan. Their first mission was to lead whole class assemblies, the first time we have done this in Middle School!

Principal Advisory Board's Focus

Their focus was on reinforcing the common expectations we have, especially important after an extended break from school. They formulated their Live skits and recorded videos based on What NOT to do and What scholars SHOULD do in the Middle School. The important part for this new Leadership team was that they recognized areas their team could improve on, and quickly on Day 2 they implemented their own ideas, they came alive, and honestly, they commanded a lot of respect from me and from their peers. It was incredible to see LIVE! Honestly, sometimes you just need to give a task, and let them go! Not everything needs to be spelled out. Too often we feel we have to give all the answers instead of engaging them in discovery and some struggle! That along with a new team is healthy and teamwork and purposeful collaboration are LIFE Skills!



After the video and skit, there were some friendly competitions with points awarded to each class, so 8A vs 8B, etc by asking questions for recall. They then checked for understanding through a fun Kahoot game that everybody loved. Finally, the most powerful part is the discussion from each grade level. What I mean is, they were able to then ask each grade level what THEIR ideas are for competitions to build school pride, focus on elevating the status of academics, and then to reward or incentivize those positive behaviors and celebrations for THEIR accomplishments. We have just over a month before winter break begins, so we will meet to reflect on how things went together, and then take ideas from Grades 5, 6, 7 & 8 that we can implement as a competition and see how hard our scholars work as a team to not only win but improve and practice life skills and academic skills.

Grade 7

P.S. I do need to give props to Grade 7! They are our largest group of scholars, and I was incredibly proud of how they behaved during their class assembly. Now I know more of what they can do together, rather than what they aren't or cannot do. That is an example of making the positive so loud you can hardly hear the negative.

