

I have chosen to be a middle grades educator, for I recognize that the years of early adolescence are pivotal and abound with individual potential and opportunity.

Therefore, I will care for these students personally, listen to their voices, respect their concerns, and engage them in meaningful educational experiences that will prepare them for a promising future.

# This I Believe



I believe that every young adolescent...

- /// Has the capacity to learn, grow, and develop into a knowledgeable, reflective, caring, ethical, and contributing citizen.
- /// Must have access to the very best programs and practices a school can offer.
- /// Must be engaged in learning that is relevant, challenging, integrative, and exploratory.
- /// Faces significant life choices and needs support in making wise and healthy decisions.
- /// Thrives academically, socially, and emotionally in a democratic learning environment where trust and respect are paramount and where family and community are actively involved.
- /// Deserves educators who are prepared to work with this age group, who are themselves lifelong learners and committed to their own ongoing professional development and growth.

Therefore, I proudly dedicate myself to becoming the best middle grades educator I can be and an active advocate for all young adolescents.

This statement is based on *This We Believe: Keys to Educating Young Adolescents*, the position paper of the Association for Middle Level Education.  
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