**A Proclamation in Support of**

**National Middle Level Education Month
March 2019**

**Whereas,**  schools that educate middle grades students play a critical function in the nation’s educational system in that they are responsible for educating young adolescents between the ages of 10 and 15 (grades 5-9) that are undergoing rapid and dramatic changes in their physical, intellectual, social, emotional and moral development;

**Whereas, each day nearly 24 million young adolescents enter school deserving what research and practice have shown to help middle grades students achieve: challenging and engaging instruction; teachers and administrators knowledgeable and prepared to provide young adolescents with a safe, challenging, and supportive learning environment; and organizational structures that banish anonymity and promote personalization, collaboration and social equity;**

**Whereas,** the habits and values established during early adolescence have a critical, life-long influence that directly impacts the future health and welfare of our nation;

**Whereas, research has found that the academic achievement of eighth grade students has a larger impact on their readiness for college by the end of high school than anything that happens academically in high school;**

**Whereas, in order to improve graduation rates and prepare students to be lifelong learners ready for college, career and citizenship, a deeper public** understanding of the distinctive mission of the middle level is necessary;

**Now, therefore, be it**

**Resolved**, that the month of March 2019 be declared National Middle Level Education Month, recognizing the importance of middle level education and honoring the contributions of those who educate this unique age group.