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.

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

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 research-based programs and practices a school can offer.
- Should be engaged in learning that is challenging, exploratory, integrative, and diverse.
- 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.
- Benefits from policies and practices that are student-centered, unbiased, and fairly implemented.
- Deserves educators who are prepared to work with this age group, who are themselves lifelong learners, and are 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. Signed:

Based on The Successful Middle School: This We Believe, the position paper of The Association for Middle Level Education. Learn more at amle.org/sms. Post your pledge in your classroom and on social media and tag @AMLE.