

# Glossary of Terms

## Shady Side Academy Middle School

**Form I:** refers to 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Form II:** refers to 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Advisor/Homeroom Teacher:** Each student has an advisor to support academic, personal, and social growth and meets with them daily. Parents are encouraged to communicate with their child's advisors as a first line of questioning about all things Shady Side.

**Director of Studies:** ([Brian Johnston](#)) can answer questions about scheduling, school procedures, and academic achievement. Brian is also the Assistant Head of the Middle School.

**Learning Specialist:** ([Matthew Pattera](#)) provides support for all students in the areas of learning, study skills and organization. He is a resource for parents/guardians in these areas. He also manages student accommodations and works with students, parents, and teachers to implement them.

**School Counselor:** ([Georgia Leasher](#)) provides consultation and support for students and student/family needs. She is a resource for a child's social/emotional development as well as peer interactions and has an Open-Door Policy.

**Athletic Coordinator:** ([David Vadnais](#)) can answer questions about athletic schedules, athletic choices, and teams.

**Athletic Period:** takes place from 2:30 to 3:40 daily.

**Advisory Time:** Each day has 20 minutes for advisory or committees/clubs.

**Essential Classes:** Classes that do not meet daily: Art, Music, Tech & Design, Library, Fitness & Wellness, 6<sup>th</sup> grade study skills.

**Conference Period:** This refers to a daily period during which students can organize their materials, update their planner, and begin to work on their homework. They can also request to meet with their teachers for questions and review of academic material.

**Tutorial:** This refers to an after-school study session at the Academy from 2:20 to 3:20. Teachers assign students to Tutorial to meet with a specific teacher to work on academic material that either needs to be reviewed or was missed during an absence, etc.

**Gym Study:** This refers to remaining at the Academy from 2:20 to 3:20 and is available for sick or injured students to complete homework and study. This is a teacher supervised period and initially requires a note from parents and then a physician. Gym study is also used for a student who has an early dismissal that falls between 2:20 and 3:30. These students should go to Gym Study here at the Middle School, and not to athletics. (Please refer to the MS Handbook)

**Dress Code:** [Specific uniformity in dress](#). See the Handbook or Parent Portal for specific guidelines.

**Interim:** These reports can be issued at any time during the school year as a means of providing parents with updates on their child's progress. Parents should respond to these reports via email to address the information sent.

**Student Committees:** These start at the beginning of the year and students have options to choose a committee of interest (i.e., dance committee, peer tutoring, etc.)