



Middlesex School College Office Statement of Philosophy

The Middlesex mission "to find the promise in every student" rings true in the college counseling program as students begin to gaze beyond the campus and enter into a time of exciting transition. Students, with the collaboration and support of their parents and college counselors, embark on a yearlong journey of self-discovery as they engage in honest self-assessment, thoughtful research, and increasingly independent decisions. We encourage students to find their voice in the process while they explore, probe, and challenge their own assumptions about themselves and the colleges they are considering. To find comfortable and appropriate matches between students and post-secondary institutions, we attempt to foster among the students, parents, and college counselors open lines of communication, honest feedback, and a spirit of cooperation. We try to nourish an environment in which all may practice patience, sustain their sense of humor, and maintain an open mind as we navigate together the challenges, as well as the exciting possibilities, in the college selection process.

We adhere to the belief that students are ultimately the driving force behind the process. We encourage students to take ownership of their destiny and responsibility for their actions; we support them in embracing this opportunity to test their values, explore their personal preferences, and make complex, long-term decisions for themselves. Application deadlines, testing dates, essays, recommendation requests, and interviews all require equal and full attention from the students. We hope that students emerge from this critical stage in their adolescent development and their first step toward adulthood with a clearer sense of their independence.

The College Office operates within the context of truth and reality, placing the dignity and worth of each student as our primary focus. Through active listening, an accurate assessment of students' abilities and talents, and a willingness to understand students' personal and cultural sensitivities, we strive to build a healthy and open relationship with students and their parents. We value students for the whole spectrum of their humanity and promise. Through all the challenges of evaluating and presenting themselves to colleges, we have confidence that students by way of their preparation, organizational skills, maturity, intelligence, and thoughtfulness, will carry the day. In the end, students will find happiness in their college selection when they allow their insights, hard-won research, and self-discoveries to lead them toward the best matches as they leave behind the safe surroundings of the Middlesex campus.