



# Welcome To The Day Family!



Grade 5 Parent Orientation

# Agenda

1. PTO
2. Introductions to Day Staff
3. A Bit About Day
4. Middle School and Social Emotional Learning
5. School Organization and Classes
6. Student Services
7. After School Programs and Enrichment
8. Home/School Partnership and Getting Involved
9. Next Steps
10. Questions?

# Special Thanks to our 8th Grade Ambassadors!



# F.A. Day Middle School PTO

## Co-Presidents:

- ❑ Fiona St. John-Parsons
- ❑ Angie Kim

# WHAT DO WE DO?



- Cookies & Lemonades

- Yearbook



- 8th grade graduation



- Fall Fest



- Principal/Parent Coffee

- Social media



- Staff Appreciation

- Spirit Wear



- ELPAC, METCO & SEPAC support

- Mini Grants for staff

- Boston Bowl



- Multi-Cultural Night



# WHERE DOES IT GO?



- Cookies & Lemonades

- Fall Fest



- Staff Appreciation



- Mini Grants for staff

- POPS program



- Moving On ceremony

- Assignment Books



- PTO General Operations

- Library



- Boston Bowl



- Incoming 6<sup>TH</sup> grade swag

- CAS

Creative Arts & Science

Contact  
Us

# CONTACT:



## Email:

[info@daypto.org](mailto:info@daypto.org)

[treasurer@daypto.org](mailto:treasurer@daypto.org)

[fadaypresidents@daypto.org](mailto:fadaypresidents@daypto.org)

## Social media

Facebook: FA Day PTO

Instagram: Day\_pto

Website: [www.daypto.org](http://www.daypto.org)



# Some Introductions.....

This is me... Ms. Mann, Principal of F.A. Day for the past eight years.





# Assistant Principals

**Ms. Philbin**



**Ms. Clayton**



# Student Services

**Mike Thurm**

AP of Student Services



**Jennifer Murphy**

Asst.Coord.of Student Services



# 6th Grade School Counselors

**Role of school counselor:** schedules, social emotional support, executive functioning, academic advocacy, conflict resolution

## **Next Year's 6th Grade Counselors:**

**Jim Thompson:** [thompsonj@newton.k12.ma.us](mailto:thompsonj@newton.k12.ma.us)

**Molly Bryant:** [bryantm@newton.k12.ma.us](mailto:bryantm@newton.k12.ma.us)



## Other Day Faculty Joining This Evening:

- Andy Comings - 6th Grade Social Studies, Sky Team
- Steve Ford - 6th Grade Social Studies, Cobalt Team
- Hannah Alegbeleye - 6th Grade Social Studies, Ocean Team
- Adam Lunin - Health and PE Teacher
- Melissa Thomas- 6th Grade Math- Ocean Team



# The Day Way



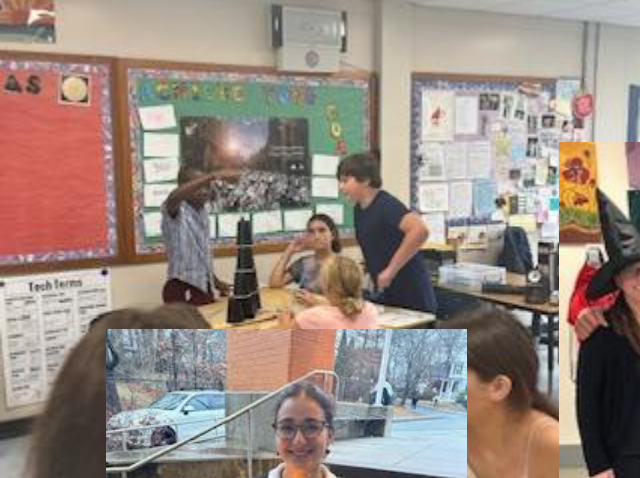


# Day Community!!





# Day Community



Who will help you at Day Middle School???

EVERYONE !!



# A little bit about Frank Ashley Day Middle School

## **DAY FACTS:**

### **Where do our students come from:**

District feeder schools, Burr, Cabot, Franklin, Horace Mann, Peirce and other elementary schools based upon student and family needs, private schools, families moving into district

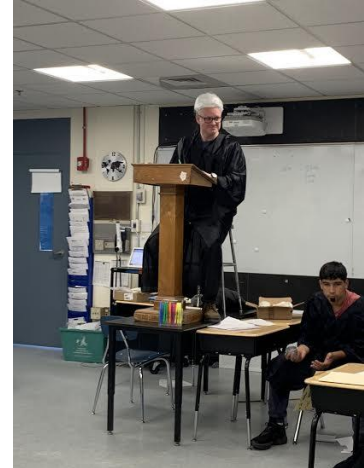




# Middle School: Habits of Mind

*(Learning and Leading with Habits of Mind: Costa & Kallick)*

- **Remaining Open To Continuous Learning (Growth Mindset)**
- **Listening with Understanding and Empathy**
- **Thinking flexibly**
- **Managing Impulsivity**
- **Thinking about Thinking (Metacognition)**
- **Creating, Imagining, Innovating**
- **Taking Responsible Risks**
- **Questioning and Posing Problems- i.e. - Science Study of Phenomenon**
- **Applying Past Knowledge to New Situations**
- **Thinking and Communicating with Clarity and Precision**
- **Gathering Data Through All Senses**
- **Finding Humor**
- **Thinking Independently**
- **Persisting**
- **Striving for accuracy**
- **Supporting claims with evidences and reasoning (CER)**





# Middle School: SEL Skills

Phyllis Fagell: “The 10 Key Skills Kids need to thrive in middle school and beyond”  
(*Middle School Matters*)

- ❑ **Make good friend choices**
- ❑ **Negotiate conflict**
- ❑ **Manage student/teacher mismatch**
- ❑ **Create homework and organization systems**
- ❑ **Consider others’ perspectives**
- ❑ **Self-advocate**
- ❑ **Self-regulate emotions**
- ❑ **Cultivate passions**
- ❑ **Make responsible, healthy, ethical choices**
- ❑ **Create and innovate**



# The Core of Social Emotional Learning is Connections

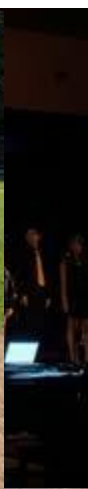
- CLUBS AND ENRICHMENT
- AFFINITY GROUPS
- STUDENT LEADERSHIP
- COMMUNITY EVENTS
- ADVISORY AND COMMUNITY DAYS



# Community Connections





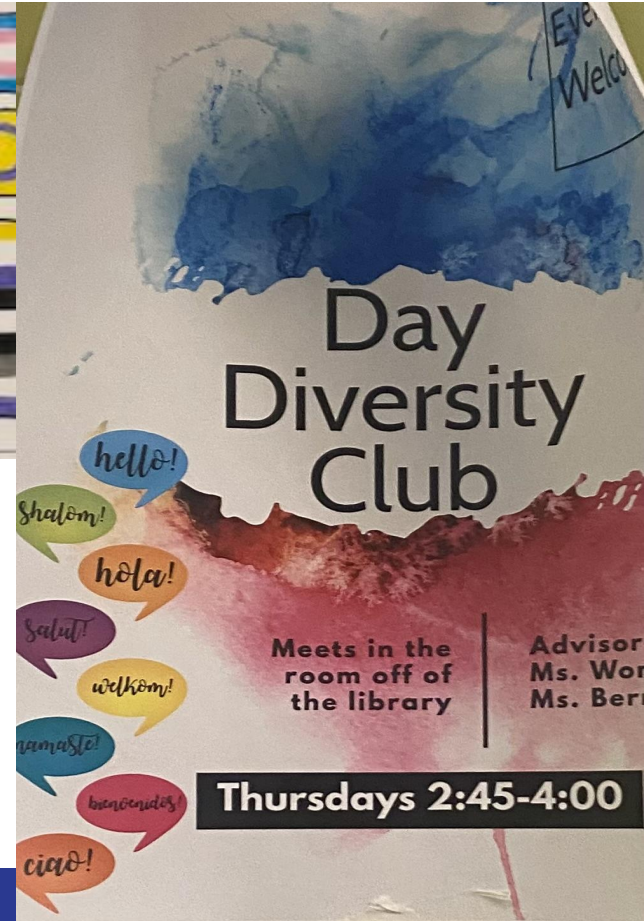
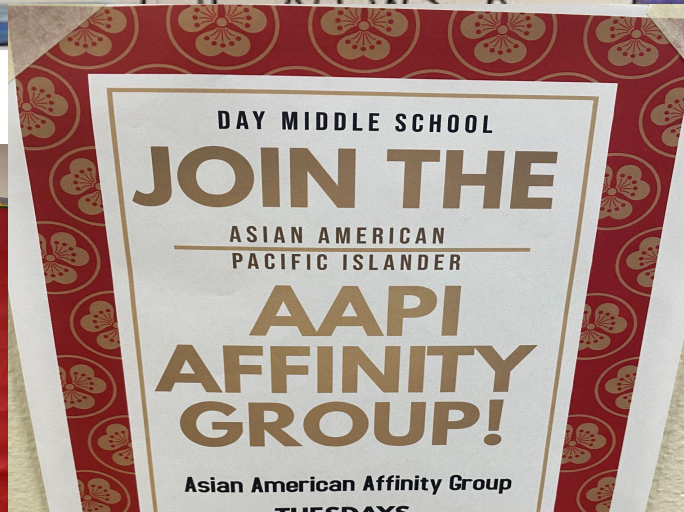
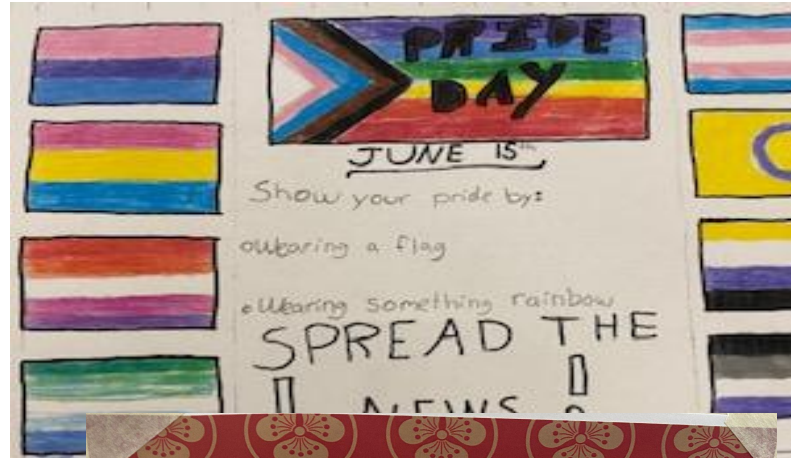




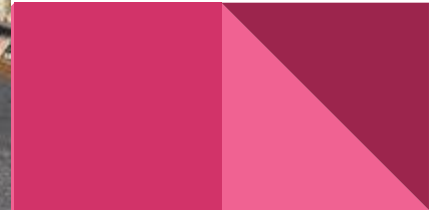




# Community Connections



# Student Leadership, Service and Agency



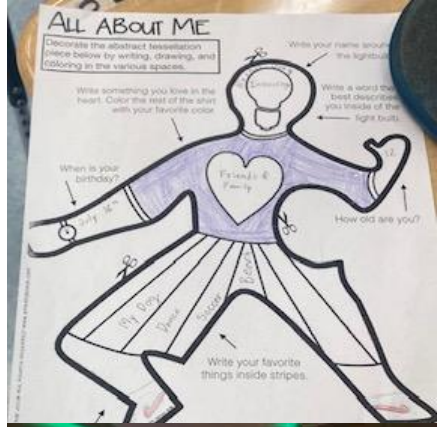


# What is Advisory?

- Small group of 10-14 students
- Faculty Advisory Leader
- Students begin every day here
- Activities: Sown to Grow, check-ins, games, community building, shared messaging, building community, preparation for community learning.
- Community Days: School-wide activities on identity, belonging, inclusivity, school values and shared expectations.



# Advisory



# Common Questions and Concerns

**The Association of Middle Level Education conducted research on the experiences of 5<sup>th</sup> graders transitioning to middle school.**

## **Common threads: Basic Needs**

Lockers

Lunch

Safety(getting lost, friendly students, rules)

Academic challenges

Bus





# School Hours

Everyday EXCEPT Wednesdays: 7:55 a.m. - 2:25 p.m.

Wednesday: 7:55 a.m. - 1:40 p.m.

This year's early release days: 10:50 a.m.



# Mornings

7:15 - 7:40 a.m. Most buses arrive

7:30 - 7:50 a.m. Students can enter the building for breakfast, morning clubs or library

7:55 a.m. School Day begins - students report to advisory



# WE ARE A CELL PHONE FREE COMMUNITY!!



# Technology:

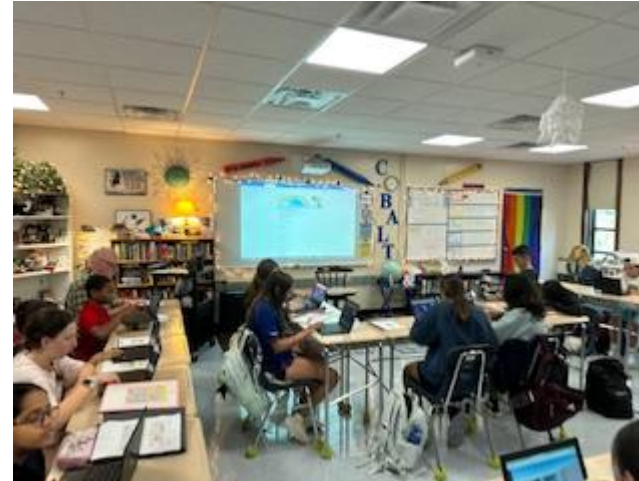
- ❑ Examining our children's relationship with technology?
- ❑ Looking at authentic integration of technology
- ❑ Gradual, developmentally appropriate release to independence.
- ❑ 6th Grade Lessons
- ❑ Consider how and when we integrate, explicit teaching, monitoring



# TEAM ORGANIZATION:

## Sky Cobalt Ocean

- Teams at each grade level
- 3 teams in sixth-grade 284 Students
- Approximately 96 students on each team
- Approximately 24 students per class
- Each student is connected to:
  - One of Three Teacher Teams
  - Student Service Personnel and Programming
  - An Assistant Principal & a Counselor






# TEAM SUBJECTS/Teachers

- LANGUAGE ARTS
- MATHEMATICS
- SCIENCE
- SOCIAL STUDIES
- TEAM EXTENSION
- SPECIAL EDUCATION



# Team Extension: Our “WIN” Block

- ❑ Rotate to all four team teachers for extra support and challenge.
  - ❑ Time for independent work/home work
  - ❑ Literacy Intervention
  - ❑ Performing Arts: Chorus, Band, Orchestra
  - ❑ Special Education Service Delivery
  - ❑ Counseling, Social and Affinity Groups
  - ❑ Student Advisory Council and Learning Buddies
  - ❑ Outdoor Time
  - ❑ Enrichment
- 

# TEAM PLACEMENTS

- 6th grade will have 3 teams
- Balanced Teams – Heterogeneous Groups
  - Gender, Race, Ethnicity
  - Feeder school
  - Individual students' services
- Sources of Information
  - Elementary teachers
  - Families, IEPs, 504s
- Announcements of Teams
  - August – Summer Email
  - NO CHANGES AFTER TEAMS ANNOUNCED



# MULTI-TEAM CLASSES

- All year:
  - World Language (Chinese, French, Italian or Spanish)
  - Physical Education
- One Rotation Per Term:
  - Music, Art, Drama, Tech/Engineering
- Per Semester
  - Physical Education and Health





# Arts Rotation/PE and Health..







	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6
	Advisory	Advisory	Advisory	Advisory	Advisory	Advisory
1	Math	Science	Rotation	History	Science	World Language
2	Science	Rotation	ELA	Science	Rotation	ELA
3	World Language	ELA	History	World Language	Math	History
4	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
	Enrichment	Extension	Extension	Enrichment	Extension	Extension
5	ELA	History	World Language	ELA	ELA	PE
6	History	PE or Health	Math	Math	PE or Health	Math
7	PE	Math	Science	Rotation	History	Science

# STUDENT SERVICES

## Special Education Services and Programs and School Counselors Contact:

Mike Thurm, AP for Student Services

[thurmm@newton.k12.ma.us](mailto:thurmm@newton.k12.ma.us)

Jennifer Murphy, Assistant Department Head

[murphyj@newton.k12.ma.us](mailto:murphyj@newton.k12.ma.us)

- Family presentation on Special Education at Day:
- **Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom**





# After School Activities

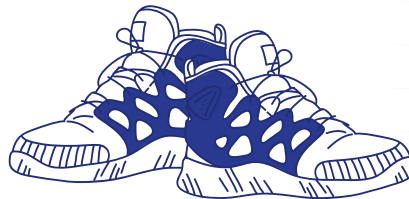
Clubs – Sports – Drama  
Intramurals

Co-Directors  
Andy Comings & Mark Murphy



# Clubs

- Clubs are for any student interested in being involved in a variety of after school activities.
- Clubs may last for a few months or the entire school year.
- Clubs are open to students in all grades except where noted.
- Most clubs meet after school from 2:30 - 4:00.
- New clubs can always be created



# Clubs

## Examples from Past Years:

Improv Club

Ski and Sports

Digital Art

Basketball Skills Club

Day Diversity Club

LGBTQ+ Affinity

Homework Club

STEM for ALL

GSA

Jazz Band

Morning Basketball

Creative Writing

Knitting & Crochet

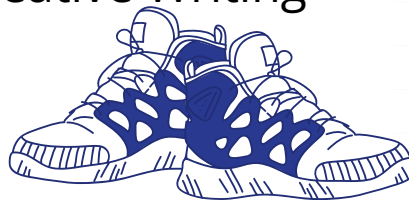
Math Team

Stage Crew

Green Team

Mural Club

Chess



# Sports

## Fall

- Boys Soccer\*
- Girls Soccer\*
- Cross Country  
(Includes 6th grade)
- Flag Football  
(Includes 6th grade)
- Ultimate Frisbee\*\*

## Winter

- Boys Basketball\*
- Girls Basketball\*
- Unified Basketball\*\*
- Cheer\*

## Spring

- Boys Lacrosse\*
- Girls Lacrosse\*
- Baseball\*
- Softball\*
- Track & Field  
(Includes 6th grade)
- Volleyball\*\*

\*Sports with tryouts

\*\*Intramural Sports



# Sports Continued

- All athletes must be registered on FamilyID to participate in tryouts/practices/games.
- All athletes must attend the coaches informational meeting.
- All athletes must have an up to date physical with the nurse.
- Sports meet 4 times a week (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday) after school 2:30 - 4:00 - games/meet go longer
- Intramurals are the same but meet 2 times a week



# Day Drama



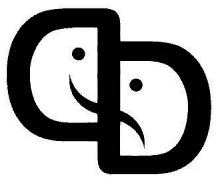
We have a full season each school year with performance, writing, directing, stage management, tech and design opportunities at all grade levels.

**Each production is a major commitment for all involved.**

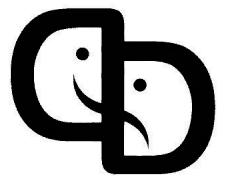
We also participate in the Massachusetts Educational Theatre Guild (**METG**) Middle School Drama Festival each spring, as well as the **METG** workshops and contests in the fall.

This year, we performed the musical ***Mean Girls jr.*** in December, and ***A Midsummer Night's Dream*** is coming up in May.

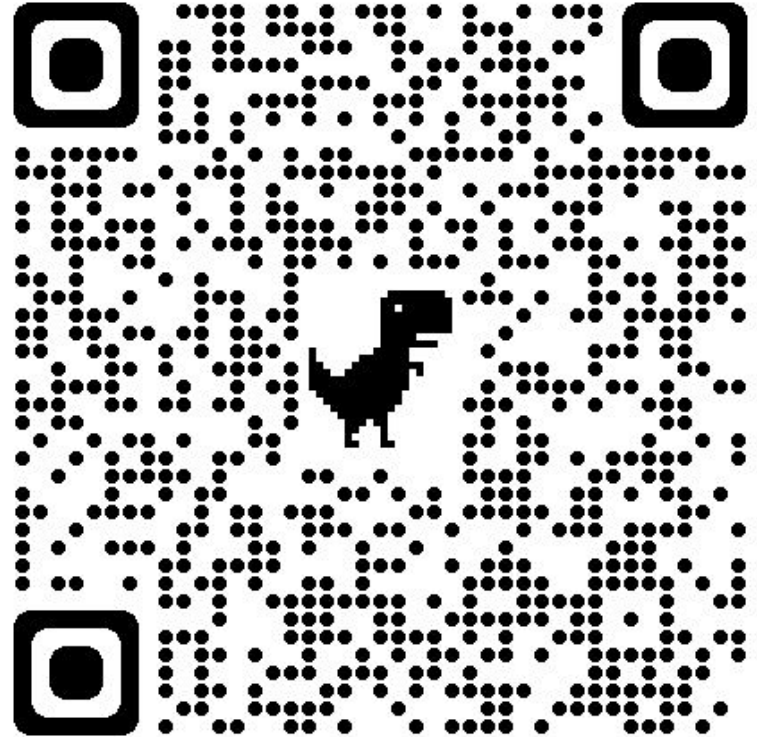
**On the next slide, there is a QR code for the Drama website!**



## Day Drama (*continued*)



- Scan this QR code to reach the **Caregiver Information letter** on the **Day Drama Website!**
- You can always reach Mrs. McGettrick at [daydrama@newton.k12.ma.us](mailto:daydrama@newton.k12.ma.us) or mcgettrickj@newton.k12.ma.us



## Fees

- Clubs: \$100 for the year allows your student to participate in any/all clubs (no fee for homework club and GSA).
- Drama: \$150 for the year allows your student to participate in any/all Day Drama productions ***and*** any/all clubs for the year.
- Sports: \$230 per sport with \$690 family cap.
- Intramurals: \$115 per sport.
- Financial assistance is always available



# Clubs and Drama



# SPORTS AT DAY



# Communications at Day

- Weekly Newsletters- Parent Square
- Team and Teacher Newsletters- Parent Square
- Schoology - Student Progress
- ASPEN - Report Cards
- Counselors- Team Meetings
- Reports Cards- ASPEN
- Day PTO: Team Parents, Volunteers,
- Parent Conferences
- Back to School Night
- **Principal Coffee and Tours**



# Partners in your child's education

**Best way to communicate-** email: [Lastnamefirstinitial@newton.k12.ma.us](mailto:Lastnamefirstinitial@newton.k12.ma.us)

e.g. [mannj@newton.k12.ma.us](mailto:mannj@newton.k12.ma.us) (with a few exceptions)

## Who to call when?

- **School counselor-** student support or question about progress -direct you to a teacher
- **Front Office-** Attendance or forgotten Items- Ms. Fisher or Ms. Wong
- **Student Services-** Ms. Barry, Mr. Thurm's Assistant question about IEP or 504
- **Health Issues** - School Nurses- Ms. Larson
- **Appointment with Ms. Mann-** Ms. Fisher the Principal's Assistant
- **Student Discipline Issue** - Ms. Philbin or Ms. Clayton

WE ARE ALL HERE TO HELP!





# Advice to Families

- Be positive about your child's transition to middle school
- Evaluate what they need? Summer visit? Practice morning routines?
- Explore Day's Website
- Summer Visits- reach out to Ms. Mann or Ms.Fisher
- Attend August Social with a Buddy
- Downplay Team Placement
- Emails from the principal
- Establish Your Family's Social Media Guidelines Now
  - Set Limits, Monitor, Question
- When in Doubt, Call. We are Partners!
- Get INVOLVED IN THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY....



# Next Steps.....

- ❑ Incoming 5th grade Parent Square monthly newsletters (this slide deck in March newsletter)

## Welcome 5th Grade Families

- ❑ March 11th - Special Education Info. Night 6:30 p.m.
- ❑ March 17th - World Language and Performing Arts Selection Form World Language Survey and Selection Form
- ❑ March 31st - World Language and Performing Arts Forms Due
- ❑ April 3rd- Virtual Parent/Principal Q&A at 6:30 p.m.
- ❑ April 17th- Any Parent Requests due to Jenn Murphy : [murphyj@newton.k12.ma.us](mailto:murphyj@newton.k12.ma.us)
- ❑ May 3rd - May 23rd- Principal visits to 5th Gr.
- ❑ May - 5th Grade Parent Coffee and Tours
- ❑ June 13th - 5th Grade Step Up Day at F.A. Day



# Parent Letters

Email to **Jennifer Murphy** with unique requests

By April 17, 2025

[murphyj@newton.k12.ma.us](mailto:murphyj@newton.k12.ma.us)

## What you can request:

Placement of twins; avoids; unique social or academic need

## What you cannot request:

Specific teams or teachers



# Orientation Activities

- ❑ STEP UP DAY: June 13th
- ❑ New Student Orientation: August
- ❑ August PTO Family Social







## First Day at Day!! - Meeting Advisory Teachers in the Cafe



## Week One Team Building

# Additional Resources:

- [FA Day Middle School Website: "Incoming 6th Grade Page"](#)
- A video produced by Ms. McGettrick's 6th Gr. Enrichment Class:  
[Quick Tour of FA Day](#)

## Some Middle School Reading:

- *Middle School Matters* by Phyllis Fagell
- *First Phone* by Dr. Catherine Pearlman



# Your Questions

