



*Dr. Elizabeth Savidge*

Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum and  
Instruction and Professional Development and  
Middle Schools  
Independence School District  
Independence, Missouri

Dear Parent or Guardian,

We are excited about the 2017-18 school year and want to communicate important information regarding changes to our middle school schedule and the addition of middle school credits. Our goals are to increase student's accountability for their academic progress and increase academic achievement for all students.

Beginning in 2017-2018, we will institute a modified block schedule for our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students which will look similar to the schedule students will experience in high school. Students will begin each day in home room where they will work on personal communication, organizational skills, goal setting, career exploration, and teambuilding. Students will communicate with parents or guardians about grades and attendance on a regular basis. In addition, students will have opportunities, during the instructional day, for additional support through intervention, tutoring and enrichment. We believe this will ensure students have the skills necessary for success as they transition through the middle grades and into high school.

We are also implementing a credit system for incoming 7<sup>th</sup> grade students. This credit system will expand to include all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students the following year. Students will have the opportunity to earn seven (7) units of credit per year. In order to be promoted to the next grade level, students must earn a minimum of 5.5 credits each school year. Again, students will monitor their academic and attendance progress during their homeroom class and intervention block throughout the year. Students will have numerous opportunities to recover credit through tutoring, Saturday School and/or credit by completion. Students *may* be required to attend summer school to complete missing credits. Students who do not complete summer school will likely be required to take credit recovery classes within the school day the following year which could result in the loss of elective class options.

Education is a partnership based upon continual communication and shared responsibilities among parents, students, teachers and the school. Thank you for partnering with us to ensure your student receives the very best education possible! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or your school administration team.

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