



**Empower  
Persevere  
Innovate  
Connect**

**Van Antwerp MS  
2023 Grade 5 Parent Night**

**May 31, 2023**

---



# **Van Antwerp PTO**

## **PTO Presidents**

Adam Zima

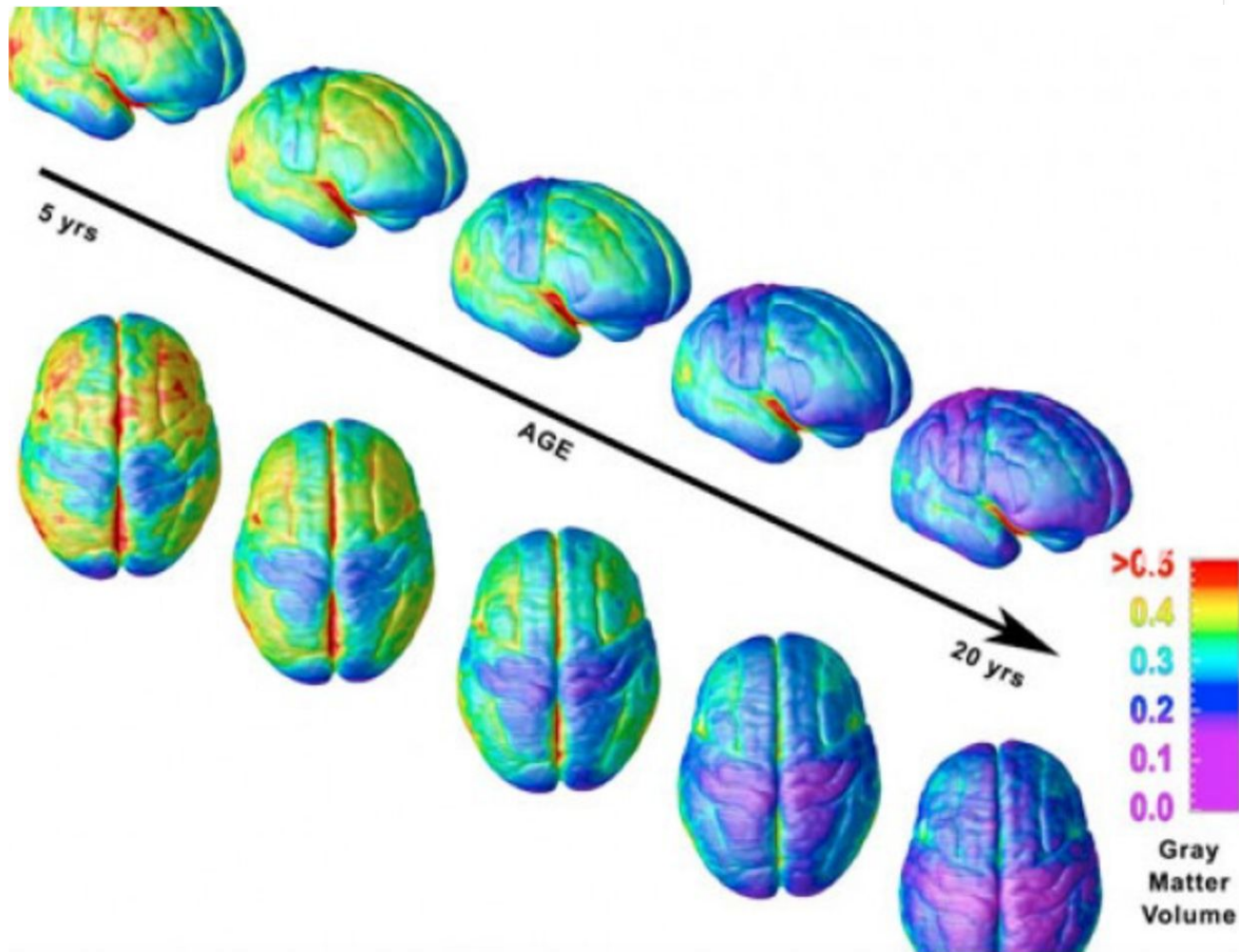
Joseph Drescher

---

# Goals For This Evening

- Introduce young adolescence and the middle years.
  - Introduce our program and how it addresses middle level needs.
  - Explain the orientation process
  - Answer your questions.
-

# The Teen Brain



# The Teen Brain



# Middle School Students

- Changing physically and in how they think (concrete to abstract)
  - Disorganized or forgetful
  - Hyper-focused on friends and what they think
  - Impulsive (Do first, then reflect/think)
  - Craving independence without the experience to manage it.
  - Irritable, Emotional, etc.
  - Seeking to be known, included and to contribute
  - **Variability** of their development. All or none of the above.
-

# MIDDLE SCHOOL!





# Early Concerns...

- Lockers
- Multiple classes
- Finding my way around
- New friends/8th grade
- New teachers



***Early concerns don't last!***

---

# Middle Level Supports

- **Teams-** Students share a common group of teachers that work together to plan, strategize and get to know students.
  - **Counseling-** Part of our grade 6 teams. Help run our orientation program.
  - **Grade 8 Leaders-** Help with orientation, getting 6th acclimated, etc.
  - **Orientation Program-** Includes school visits, summer orientation and work with teachers to start the year.
-

# HOURS

- Buses unload at 8:40
- Advisory (HR) 8:50
- Dismissal 3:15
- Before and After School 3:15-4:00 p.m.
- Late Bus on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday at 4 p.m.



# Team Classes

- English/Language-Arts
  - Social Studies
  - Science
  - Math
  - Reading
-

# Special Area Classes

- World Language (Spanish or French)- 20 weeks- A or B day
  - Physical Education-20 weeks- A or B day
  - Visual Art-20 weeks
  - Health- 10 weeks
  - General Music- 10 weeks
- 



# Schedule

Exp	Trm	Crs-Sec	Course Name	Credit	Teacher
HR(A-B)	21-22	MV006-2	Advisement 6	0	Tylock, C
1(A-B)	21-22	MM600-2	Math 6	0	Tylock, C
2(A-B)	21-22	MS600-5	Science 6	0	Postlethwait, K
3(A)	21-22	MP600-3	Phys Ed 6	0	Daoust, B.
5(A-B)	21-22	ME608-5	Reading 6	0	Fluegge, Emily
6(A-B)	21-22	ME600-5	English 6	0	Loliscio, Joleen
7(A-B)	21-22	MH600-2	Social Studies 6	0	Wygowski, Aaron
8(A-B)	S2	MA600-5	Fine Arts 6	0	LaPatra, A.
8(A-B)	Q1	MK600-5	Health 6	0	Trefethen, M
8(A-B)	Q2	MU600-5	Music 6	0	Loomis, Thomas
AC(A-B)	21-22	MY000-64	Access	0	Wygowski, Aaron
3(B)	21-22	ML610-3	Spanish 6	0	Yetto, C.

# Schedule Glossary

- **Advisement (8:50-9:00)**- This is a homeroom. We take daily attendance, check-in with students, provide announcements and instructions for the day.
  - **Access**- A time when students have “access” to their teachers to ask questions, get missing assignments or work independently.
  - **Quarter (Q1, Q2, Q3 or Q4)**- 10 week period of time. Q1= First 10 weeks/marking period.
  - **Semester (S1 or S2)**- 20 weeks period of time. S1= Q1 & Q2
-

# Lunch

- 30 Minutes  
(11:15-11:45)
  - Includes all students at a given grade level.
  - Eat for 15/Recess for 15  
(Whenever possible)
- 







Craig Orientation  
May 23, 2023



Hillside Orientation  
May 16, 2023

---



# Orientation Program

- ❖ Craig and Hillside visit VA
  - ❖ VA Counselors visit Hillside and Craig
  - ❖ Friendship Games
  - ❖ **Gr. 5 to 6 Parent Night**
  - ❖ Summer orientation for students-Aug. 30
  - ❖ Teachers: First few weeks of school.
  - ❖ Grade 8 Student Leaders
  - ❖ Principal Talks/Expectations/Safety
  - ❖ Back-to-School Nights
  - ❖ Fun activities (IC Social/Gr. 6 Dance)
-

# Activities/Fun!

- Community Day
  - Read-A-Thon
  - Sports Club
  - Book Fair/Ice-Cream Social
  - Halloween Dance
  - Chorus
  - Band/Orchestra
  - Jam Day/Talent Show
  - Game Club
  - W.E.B. Dance
  - Science Curriculum Field Trips
  - Turkey Trot Fun Run
  - Media/Maker-Space
  - Garden Day-School Beautification
-

# When will we get our...?

- **Supply Lists-** First week in July (District website)
  - **Summer Mailing-** Includes intro letter, summer orientation info, supply lists, student advisory(HR) and advisory(HR) teacher & details about the first day of school. - Target date is **August 15.**
  - **Parent Portal-** Provides access to subject-by-subject grades and attendance. This is included in summer mailing.
  - **Student Schedule-** Visible in the portal as a draft in mid-August. Finalized upon arrival in homeroom on day 1.
  - **Math Placement-** Letter with math 6R or 6A sent in second week of July. Based on scores, past achievement and teacher recommendations.
  - **Logistics Info-** Drop off, pick-up, reporting absences, key dates, etc- Summer in the electronic 23-24 Parent Handbook
-

# Resources

- Niskayuna CSD [Mission & Vision](#)
  - [District Calendar 23-24](#)
  - [The Teen Brain](#)-Harvard Magazine
  - Principals' [contact information](#)
  - District [Code-of-Conduct](#)
  - [Grade 6 Orientation Site](#)
  - [Capital Project Information](#)
  - Q & A [Parent Questions](#)
  - **VA Parent Handbook 23-24 (Coming Soon)**
  - Van Antwerp's [Daily Announcements](#)
  - Summer Reading: [2023 Letter](#)
-



# Contact

**[lrakoczy@niskyschools.org](mailto:lrakoczy@niskyschools.org)**

**AP- TBD**

**[kmcferran@niskyschools.org](mailto:kmcferran@niskyschools.org)**

**[mmccarthy@niskyschools.org](mailto:mmccarthy@niskyschools.org)**

**(518) 370 - 1243**

---