Greetings Incoming 6th Grade Families,

I would like to welcome you to our Barrington Middle School Learning Community! It was so great to see so many of you the other evening for our middle school parent orientation. Included in this email are highlights and important information regarding the cluster experience placement process, as well as a few important documents.

## **Highlights/Important Information regarding the Cluster Experience Placement Process:**

- Emphasis placed on creating balanced clusters and balanced classes.
  - Student/Teacher ratio
  - Equal number of girls and boys
  - Equal number of students in each performance sub groups
  - Special Education support in all clusters
- Determination is made by
  - Student's individual records
  - Student's performance assessments
  - Teacher input
  - Special education documents
  - Parent input (experience only)
- Additional Notes:
  - Due to the number of contributing factors, it is important to note that only 60% of parent/student suggestions (one year or looping) have been honored.
  - Due to the integrity of the cluster placement process, we are unable to accept and grant requests for specific clusters, and we will not be able to make changes to cluster assignments by request.
  - Please note, due to unforeseen circumstances we reserve the right to make changes to cluster placement and classes if necessary to support educational programming.
  - o In addition, we will continue to balance schedules up until the first day of school.

## **Documents:**

- Special Education Department: Slide Show Incoming 6th Grade Families Presentation
  - Note: Reviewed with parents on May 5, 2021
- Incoming 6th Grade Parent Orientation
  - Note: Reviewed with parents on May 11, 2021
- 2021 2022 6th Grade BMS Cluster Experience and Program Preference Form
  - Note: Needs to be completed by Tuesday, June 1, 2021

As always, please feel free to reach out to the following resources: your child's school counselor, Mrs. Stephanie Nary (<a href="mailto:narys@barringtonschools.org">narys@barringtonschools.org</a>); our assistant principal, Ms. Rebecca Silveira (<a href="mailto:silveirar@barringtonschools.org">silveirar@barringtonschools.org</a>), or myself, Principal, Andrew Anderson (<a href="mailto:andersona@barringtonschools.org">andersona@barringtonschools.org</a>) if you have any questions. We look forward to partnering and collaborating with you in the very near future!

Sincerely,

Andrew Anderson Principal Barrington Middle School