**What’s the Scoop?**

**“Minute Clinic” Session with Ms. Sanders, School Counselor**

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| Topics | Lower School (Grade 4) | Middle School (5-8) |
| **Number of teachers**  **LS= 5 teachers**  **MS= 8 teachers** | \*Homeroom (HR) teacher does Morning Meeting, PM homeroom, and teaches Chinese, math, science and social studies  \*Specialists teach English, Music, Art, and PE | \*Homeroom teacher does Morning Meeting and PM homeroom  \*HR Teacher may teach Chinese, SS, and math.  \*Specialists teach science, English, Music, Art, and PE |
| **Balance of Chinese/English instruction** | 80/20  \*Chinese, math, science, social studies, music, and art are taught in Chinese  \*English and PE are taught in English | Goal of 70/30 in G5  \*Chinese, math, art, and music are fully taught in Chinese in G5; over the MS years, social studies is taught 50% in Chinese and 50% in English  \*English, science, and PE are taught in English |
| **Increased level of independence** | \*HR teacher walks students from one class/activity to another  \*HR teacher has the big picture and helps oversee organization and time management | \*Students walk themselves from class to class  \*Students must take increased responsibility for organization and time management  \*Planners are essential  \*Dragon Life choices |
| **Chinese and Math instruction** | Classes organized according to homeroom with differentiated instruction offered within | Classes potentially organized in levels in G6-8 with placement of students according to content mastery, maturity, focus and diligence with homework |
| **Discovery Classes:**  **SEL topics** | Topics covered in Morning Meeting; guided by Responsive Classroom and class needs | \*Topics: Organizational Skills; Self-Care; Friendship; Conflict Resolution; Habits of Mind; Student Voices; Tech Talk; From the Inside Out; Mental Karate; Learning Styles, Health, and current affairs  \*Organized by Ms. Sanders  \*Taught by Ms. Sanders, Mr. Pobloske, Mrs. Hoyt, Mr. Young, Nurse Hao, Dr. Lien, and guests |

Parents, your assignment before school starts in the fall is to watch “a short film about a short time in life; **BEFORE** is a 37-minute documentary short that looks at the penultimate ***tween*** year through the lens of one 5th grade class on the last day of elementary school. It is a funny, moving and sometimes heartbreaking story about the moment when adolescence begins to eclipse childhood.” I encourage you to watch it with your middle school kids, as well, at <https://vimeo.com/120373004> I hope it will provide an opportunity to engage in meaningful conversation that will nourish and strengthen your relationships.

Remember almost anything is possible when we partner together for the sake of our kids!