



**Board Meeting Date:** 10/07/2024

**Title:** Middle School Orientation Day, Get Connected, Connect & Assess

**Type:** Discussion

**Presenter(s):** Nate Swenson, Assistant Superintendent; Dr. Cara Rieckenberg, Highlands Elementary Principal; Tricia Pettis, South View Middle School Principal; Jenn Carter, Edina High School Assistant Principal

**Description:** We will provide an overview of Get Connected and Connect and Assess from each level of the District (Elementary, Middle, and High).

**Recommendation:** No recommendation is being made at this time. This item has been prepared for board discussion.

**Desired Outcome(s) from the Board:** Please bring forth questions for the presenters.

**Attachment(s):**

- See Presentation [Slide Deck](#)

## **Introduction**

At the start of the 2024-25 school year, we implemented a new first-day schedule for our middle schools, featuring a staggered start time for new and returning students. This initiative was designed to enhance our onboarding process, particularly for students new to our middle schools, including incoming 6th graders and transfer students.

We are pleased to provide you with a follow-up on this new approach. Our initial observation indicates that this change has positively impacted our students' transition experience, aligning well with our strategic initiatives to create a more inclusive and supportive school culture. We will also discuss any challenges encountered and our plans for further refinement of this approach for future school years.

The success of this change is a testament to the collaborative efforts of our middle school leadership teams, teachers, and staff. Their dedication to creating a positive start for all students, especially those facing significant transitions, has been commendable.

In addition to the change made at our middle schools, our Elementary Schools and High School also utilized different options for Connect & Assess and Get Connected days. These variations were implemented to try and better suit the needs of stakeholders across our District.

We look forward to answering any questions about our new approaches to starting the school year.