

Dr. Nyland,

I am writing to ask for your continued support of Middle College at Highpoint's Neighborhood House. This school is so important to its students and families. I am the mother of three students who attended nontraditional schools in Seattle Public Schools and successfully graduated because of the unique education, attention and support found there. I have another student who is starting kindergarten this coming school year. I would hate to think that he would not have the choice to attend a school that will best meet his needs.

I would imagine it seems easy when looking at budgets and numbers to dismiss the impact that small alternative schools might have on students, however, the impact is not small for the students whose lives are influenced for the better. Students deserve to be educated in the manner which best meets their needs. If this school is closed, the students will not easily blend in and succeed at more mainstream school settings.

I have seen firsthand how caring, professional and dedicated your staff at this school is. Closing this school would be a mistake. This is the type of school that students will credit with their future success, and succeed they will because of the caring staff who have prepared them for the challenges they will face.

Please keep Middle College at Highpoint not only open, but fully supported. Imagine if this school could focus on the learning of its students instead of worrying if they will stay open or not? If closed, these amazing teachers will succeed wherever they end up working, but can the same be said for the students? The students of this community deserve the best and that is exactly what they find at Middle College, Highpoint.

Thank you for your time.

Amy Markishtum

Amy.markishtum@gmail.com