

May 13, 2015

Dr. Larry Nyland
Seattle Public Schools
PO box 34165
Seattle, WA 98124

I am writing this letter to urge you to support Middle College High School at High Point. My son Jackson has been a student at this school for the past 18 months and is now enrolled in the Running Start Program at South Seattle Community College. If it hadn't been for the support and encouragement of Alonzo Ybarra and Boo Balkan-Foster at Middle College High Point, I don't know where we would be. Jackson is very bright and was in the APP program at Lowell Elementary, then at Washington Middle and then Garfield for the first two years of High School. The size and demands of schedule of Garfield was too much for Jackson, and he needed another option. Middle College was that option.

Middle College at Highpoint's Neighborhood House is an alternative school located in West Seattle that serves students who are disenfranchised from the traditional big high schools. Our students interview in to our school and have a commitment to rigorous curriculum that focuses on Social Justice and fosters critical thinking. The teachers have worked tirelessly to create curriculum that is interdisciplinary and engaging, focusing on best practices and sound pedagogy. They have also developed recruitment efforts working collaboratively with members from the community. The location within Neighborhood House brings vitality to the center and extra services to the students.

Please continue to serve all students by offering this Middle College alternative. We will all benefit, especially the deserving young people!

Thank you,

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