



Notice from the Middle School Director

Dear Families,

We are excited about your child starting at Appleby College in September 2024, in Middle One (Grade 7) or Middle Two (Grade 8). I would like to introduce myself and provide you with some information to assist with the transition into Middle School at Appleby College.

My name is Janay Eccles, and I am the Director of Middle School and a French teacher. I am currently pursuing my doctorate in educational leadership and policy. While at Appleby, I have been the DEI Director, a Mutual Respect Facilitator, an Upper School Advisor, and a Middle School Home Form Advisor. I have assisted with various Councils and coached sports such as Track & Field and Soccer. As Middle School Director, I oversee all aspects of the Middle School program, including curriculum and student life.

As a new student to Appleby, your child will be part of the Middle School Advisor program. This program has been very successful in helping to facilitate students' transition and success within the Middle School. Each child is placed in a Home Form Advisor Group of eight to ten students from their grade. This Home Form Advisor group will meet to review homework, celebrate birthdays, complete wellbeing activities, and prepare for school events. Your child's Home Form Advisor is your primary point of contact for the coming school year and will support your child's success. Your child's Home Form Advisor will reach out to your family before the New Parent Orientation – Wednesday September 4th – to introduce themselves.

There are important events that will take place for you and your child in September to help welcome you to the Appleby community:

New Middle School Parent Orientation – Wednesday, September 4, 2024

New Middle School Parents are invited to come to meet the school's Administration, your child's Home Form Advisor, faculty, members of the Appleby College Parent's Association (ACPA), and your assigned parent buddy. You will have opportunities to speak with your child's Home Form Advisor and other Appleby parents. You will receive an e-mail invitation and more details will be provided in upcoming editions of *Appleby This Week*.

Orientation Day (for new and returning students) – Thursday September 5th (8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

New and returning Middle School students are required to attend an Orientation Day. This will allow students to meet others in their grade, meet their Senior One (Grade 11) leaders, and faculty. Attendance is mandatory. Students are asked to bring a water bottle and wear casual, athletic attire so that they can participate in the indoor/outdoor activities. Although school busses operate for Orientation Day, many families drive their children to campus. Therefore, there will be fewer students on the busses. If you have any questions over the summer leading up to Orientation Day, please do not hesitate to contact the Admissions team at admissions@appleby.on.ca.

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Finally, the English Department has a mandatory Summer Reading Program. For students entering Middle One (Grade 7), they are required to read the novel, *New Kid* by Jerry Craft before school begins on Monday, September 9, 2024. In Middle Two, students are expected to read *The House in the Cerulean Sea* by T.J. Klune before school begins. These books and other required texts can be purchased through the University of Toronto Bookstore. If you have any questions, please contact Janet Kurusanather, Department Head, English at JKurusanather@appleby.on.ca.

Middle One and Middle Two are significant years of growth and we encourage all students to take advantage of the wonderful learning opportunities that Appleby College has to offer. I look forward to meeting you in September and wish you all an enjoyable summer!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'JEccles'.

Janay Eccles
Director, Middle School
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