

Logan Middle School/SOTA II

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SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
LA CROSSE



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Greetings Families of Logan Middle School/SOTA II:

Kalista Richardson, Dean of Students
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As we begin a new school year, I want to take a few minutes to talk about middle school. The ages of 11-14 years old (middle school ages) experience rapid growth development, second only to ages birth-3 years old. During these middle school years, students' bodies change physically, their brains undergo astounding transformations, they begin to experience puberty, and academics grow more challenging all while they are navigating new sometimes challenging social situations.

So, we're on a mission to cultivate a community where students can be themselves allowing them to learn, explore, and grow their unique abilities. As the exterior grounds of Logan Middle School/SOTA II are being transformed through the Renew the Block project to be sustainable, climate friendly and neighborhood-based, we also are cultivating and nurturing this transformation within the school building. We will be utilizing our 8th Grade WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) Leaders, who will lead activities and opportunities throughout the year for students to build positive mentor/mentee relationships. Additionally, we will strengthen partnership with the YWCA Restorative Justice Program as we promote conflict resolution and foster leadership in our school.

Furthermore, we have scheduled each teacher in the building with a small group of students during 1st hour. **This hour is vitally important** for students as they will learn about how their brain grows and changes, learn skills to help them be successful as they have physical, emotional, cognitive and social changes, and have time to develop relationships with others. Each grade level will focus and address specific age-appropriate lessons. Also, all content areas classes will be integrating social-emotional standards into their lessons and activities providing students with real life applications and practice of the skills they are learning. Our school counselors and school social worker also will work with and support student emotional and mental health well-being. Plus, we have a resiliency room in which students who need to reset and regulate in a different environment can do so with a dedicated resiliency coach. Our resiliency coach also will work in classrooms to assist students with learning and practicing skills that will help them be more successful learners.

Most of all, developing positive, kind relationships are essential for a healthy, safe learning environment. Therefore, our core values of respect, responsibility, compassion, giving, self-discipline and generosity will be taught, emphasized, and rewarded through loving accountability during the school year.

All of this will help us reach our goal of creating a community of healthy, kind youth who can demonstrate high levels of achievement so they grow to be successful contributing citizens in our community.

Thank you for all you do!

In Partnership,
Kellie Schmitz