

Boyce Campus Middle College High School



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Boyce Campus Middle College High School

MISSION STATEMENT

Boyce Campus Middle College High School provides a supportive academic learning environment that encourages students to attend school, achieve academic success and pursue career goals.

Boyce Campus Middle College is a collaborative educational program developed and sponsored by the following schools in Allegheny County:

Gateway School District – Dr. Cleveland Steward, Jr., Superintendent

Penn Hills School District – Dr. Joseph W. Carroll, Superintendent

Plum Borough School District – Dr. Lillian Naccarati, Acting Superintendent

Woodland Hills School District – Dr. Walter M. Calinger, Superintendent

Community College of Allegheny County/Boyce Campus – Dr. Charles Martoni, CEO

Michele Markiewicz – Middle College Director
Dr. Joseph Saeli – BCMC/CCAC Liaison

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Welcome to Boyce Campus Middle College High School

BCMC is completing its thirteenth year of operation, successfully meeting the educational needs of its students as a non-traditional high school located on the Community College of Allegheny College, Boyce Campus in Monroeville.

A total of 180 students, in grades 10-11-12, from the school districts of Gateway, Plum, Penn Hills and Woodland Hills attend the Middle College.

Enrolled students have established a record of academic success, personal growth-development and high graduation rates. The success of BCMC can be attributed to its School Culture, guidance-based design, small size, academic rigor, strong student-teacher bonds and application of innovative-instructional methods. An important element is the location of BCMC on a college campus where students are required to demonstrate maturity responsibility, accountability and function at an academic site associated with success and achievement.

A review of the enclosed information will enable you to get a better understanding of the Middle College's education concept, design, purpose and profile of enrolled students.

Please contact your student's School Counselor or BCMC Director regarding student enrollment or an onsite Middle College visit.

Thank you for visiting Boyce Campus Middle College High School, a school that provides its students the opportunity for:

"A New Beginning"

Middle College

Description and Characteristics

Boyce Campus Middle College High School is a non-traditional secondary high school with its own unique "School Culture." Upon visiting BCMC, one notices that the school is situated in a specific section of the Community College of Allegheny County, Boyce Campus. It has a small student enrollment of 180 students in grades 10-11-12, from the school districts of Gateway, Penn Hills, Plum and Woodland Hills.

Middle College is a guidance-based school where faculty members serve as facilitators, counselors, mentors and focus group leaders. Teachers communicate care and personal concern in a nurturing learning environment. The design enables teachers to have greater direction contact with students.

Many students enroll in a Middle College because they are alienated from school and have negative views of education, feel rejected at their home schools, have unsatisfactory relationships with teachers or peers, and while often talented, suffer low self worth and lack self-esteem. Many have poor attendance and grades.

Middle College promotes trust, respect and bonding between teachers and students. Social bonding and interaction between adults and students in a sense of security and improved self-image and confidence. When students believe that teacher's care, and peers accept them as valued individuals, a sense of family develops, enhancing school membership and academic engagement. Middle College's endeavors to help students become more responsible adults, capable of making informed decision, accountable for their choices.

Research indicates that a college setting reduces the risk of students dropping out of school. A campus setting appears to enhance self-esteem, to motivate students to finish school and make attending college a realistic goal. The career exploration component and internship experience connects students to the working world. It enables them to establish career objectives and develop appropriate attitudes, skills and responsibilities.

Middle College

School Culture

Boyce Campus Middle College High School is a non-traditional secondary high school with its own unique "School Culture." Upon visiting BCMC, one notices that the school is situated in a specific section of the Community College of Allegheny County, Boyce Campus. It has a small student enrollment of 180 students in grades 10-11-12, from the school districts of Gateway, Penn Hills, Plum and Woodland Hills.

Small student enrollment and faculty size requires its teachers and administration to assume multiple professional role responsibilities. They serve as instructors, counselors, mentors, activities facilitators and club sponsors. Its guidance-based design enables teachers to establish strong bonds with students, based upon mutual trust and respect, in a learning climate where individuals are encouraged to demonstrate care and concern for others. It is in essence, a family-based school setting.

Research has shown that when strong bonds exist between students and their teachers, they generally perform better in school, possess a greater commitment to academic success and reengage in learning.

A school culture communicates its core values, expectations and what it identifies to be of significant importance. As a result, it is vital that all students, faculty, administration and parents fully understand and adhere to the basic operating principles, beliefs and expectations established at BCMC.

BCMC School Culture is based upon specific beliefs and expectations. It is a school culture where students:

- Believe they have value, can learn and possess potential for success
- Treat each other with respect and dignity, regardless of cultural diversity, race, religion or gender
- Demonstrate mature and responsible civil behaviors
- Use conflict resolution skills to resolve differences, problems, concerns or potential conflicts, in a non-aggressive manner
- Value and respect others for their talents, character strengths and individuality.
- Utilize critical thinking and problem solving skills to resolve academic or personal challenges
- Consistently use appropriate language
- Strive to achieve academic success and identify personal goals for future education endeavors or career pursuits
- Demonstrate commitment, responsibility and accountability by attending school 95% of the time
- Interact with teachers and peers in a positive cooperative manner
- Actively participate in learning activities in an appropriate manner

- Contribute to effective school operation by adhering and being obedient to established school rules, guidelines and policies
- Believe in the virtues of truthfulness, honesty, patience, tolerance, kindness and the value of a strong work ethic
- Realize that freedom requires responsibility

The BCMC School Culture offers all of its students the opportunity for “A New Beginning” and “A Fresh Start.” To succeed, students must demonstrate the ability to make good choices and function within the spirit and intent of BCMC’s cultural beliefs and philosophical foundation.



Middle College Survey Results

Student survey results identify many reasons why Middle College enables them to succeed and graduate from high school. Listed below are some reasons and a few personal student comments:

- Maturity, responsibility and self-esteem promoted by the college campus. I didn't want to look like an immature high school student.
- Positive relationships and social bonds with caring teachers.
- Nurturing safe school environment.
- Freedom.
- Treated with respect as an important and valued individual.
- I wasn't judged by how I looked, my clothes or didn't have money.
- Teachers listened and helped me.
- School culture.
- Small class sizes.
- The career-internship component (school to real world).
- Increased responsibility for sound decision-making.
- Individual attention in academic subjects and personal direction.
- Varied instructional strategies (cooperative learning).
- Opportunity to enroll in Community College classes.
- Close monitoring of academic progress and behavior.
- Increased parent contact.
- Opportunities to develop leadership skills.
- Weekly Focus class and Opportunity sessions.
- Attainment of positive self-image.
- Feeling of success and security.
- Family atmosphere. Everyone knows everyone.
- Development of respectful relations between students and teachers.
- Group work and projects (learn to work with others)
- No fight policy.
- Teacher's confidence in me.
- Helped me to become responsible and choose a career direction.
- I didn't want to disappoint my teachers.
- Middle College saved my life. I was sad to leave school.

Boyce Campus Middle College

Criteria for Student Identification and Possible Selection

- Recommended by the home school assessment team
- Voluntary student enrollment in BCMC
- Parent/Guardian approval
- Possesses at-risk characteristics
- High rate of absenteeism
- Poor grades
- Grade retention one or more years
- Minimum of four earned credits in grade 9, one which includes English 9
- Disengaged in school and learning
- Demonstrates difficulty functioning in a traditional school setting
- Difficulty interacting with teachers or peers
- May demonstrate low self-esteem or sense of value
- Functions better in small group settings
- Has limited personal bonds with student and teachers
- Requires non-traditional instructional approaches
- Possesses evidence of academic potential and/or evidence of past school success
- Shows evidence of being able to function on an open college campus
- Desires to be successful and graduate from high school

What Boyce Campus Middle College IS NOT

- An Alternative School for students with severe discipline or emotional problems.
- A school designed to rehabilitate students with drug/alcohol problems.
- For students who have been expelled from their home schools.
- For students who are currently attending private school.
- A school for uncooperative students looking for “easy grades.”
- A school for students who do not want to attend public school and are waiting to withdraw at age 17 or get a GED.
- For students who have not earning a minimum of for 9th grade credits.
- For student with individual educational plans.
- A school designated to provide anger management training for students who are disruptive at their home schools.