

Greetings from Midwest Academy!

Midwest Academy is a private therapeutic boarding school located on a secluded 70 acres in the Tri-State area of Illinois, Iowa, and Missouri. It is a self contained facility, which has, dormitories, gymnasium, seminar room, library, cafeteria, classrooms, and recreational space. The Academy offers a highly structured environment where students can progress both academically and personally, developing proper motivation and self-direction.

Midwest Academy utilizes a merit model for tracking student progress. A student will begin with basic privileges and through good behavior, academics, and leadership, will earn merits to move forward in their program. We have six status levels that students must complete in order to graduate the program. The first three statuses are for students to understand the need for rules and boundaries. The fourth status is focused on being in service to others and the final statuses, levels 5 and 6, expand upon application of the skills and tools that the students have learned while transitioning into the home environment. The character building program is designed to take anywhere from eleven to fourteen months.

Academically, the Academy uses a self-paced curriculum. The curriculum we provide is designed to offer an atmosphere that fosters accelerated learning away from the many distractions of the typical high school setting. Students enrolled in our school do not have the distraction of the opposite sex in the same classroom. Class, meals, activities, and dorm rooms remain completely separate to provide an environment where students can focus on themselves personally and academically. Coed activities and workshops are offered to students to deal with these issues under high supervision.

Midwest Academy provides a series of high impact educational seminars and workshops specifically designed to teach character building. During these seminars, students learn about key qualities such as: accountability, honesty, integrity, trust, choices, responsibility, anger, and self-esteem. While the students are completing their set of seminars, we invite parents to attend similar seminars located on the Midwest Academy campus. The parent seminars offer the opportunity to experience first hand some of the valuable tools that our students are learning. While most parents find the seminars of great personal value, the real value is that it provides greater bonding, insight, and understanding by participating in a common experience. Parent participation is critical in building the foundation for the relationship families deserve and desire.

In addition to the parent seminars we also assist parents in building a strong support network. The Adopt a Parent program aligns new families with a veteran family who can assist them if they have questions or want to share with another family's experience. A private Facebook group is sponsored by alumni parents in order to remain connected and there are a couple of regional support groups which monthly to provide additional support.

Midwest Academy has an open door policy. We offer the opportunity for parents to visit with staff or take a campus tour at anytime.

Midwest Academy

Soaring to New Heights



Key Points to Remember

Midwest Academy is private boarding school that accepts and houses both male and female students. Students are separated and only participate in coed activities under high supervision.

➤ **Level System:**

Levels earned based on points earned for good behavior and academic progress.

Level 1: New students, First level

Level 2: Automatically earned when a student earns 200 points. Privileges gained on this level are access to the salad bar and candy bar snacks on Saturday.

Level 3: Student must reach 1000 points, meet the level 3 standards, and be an Elements I seminar graduate. At this level a student earns two phone calls per month, one on site activity per month, and the opportunity to serve as bunk leader or dorm leader to earn additional points.

Level 4: Student must reach 2400 points, meet the level 4 standards, and be an Elements II seminar graduate. At this level a student earns three phone calls per month, 2 on site activities per month, and one off ground visit with family per month, and other such upper level privileges such as: makeup, jewelry, music, free time, and less supervision.

Level 5: Student must reach 1600 points, meet the level 5 standards, and be a Principals graduate. At this level a student earns weekly phone calls, an overnight off ground visit, two on or off site activities per month, upper level privileges, and the opportunity to move into an Internalization room. Intern rooms are separate from dorm rooms, are limited to 3 or 4 students, and set up as a college dorm setting. Students have access to more personal items, less supervision, and later bed times.

Level 6: Student must reach 1600 points, meet level 6 standards, and be a PW2 graduate. At this level a student earns weekly phone calls, one 5-7 day home visit per month, two on or off grounds activities per month, and all upper level privileges already earned. Students now begin the Home Transition Phase of the program.

*We are a results based program; students have to be creating the results to vote up for their levels. This is based on a support/deny process within the school consisting of: staff, administration, academics, peer, and student council support.

➤ **Supervision:**

Levels 1-3 are always supervised. They work in groups of 12-18 students per one dorm staff and a family rep. Dorm staff is responsible for keeping students on task, working through their schedule, and issuing consequences when needed. Levels 4-6 utilize the buddy system. These are students that have earned a certain level of trust and are showing positive results. They do not require constant supervision but do have to have a student buddy with them at all times and be able to account for where they are going or where they have been.

➤ **Therapy:**

Individual, group therapy, and psychiatric services are offered to Midwest Academy students. Therapists not only have the opportunity to meet with students one on one but have the unique ability to observe them in their daily routine and peer environment. Information for our treatment team is listed below.

➤ **Psychiatric Services provided by:**

Dr. Ronald G. St. Hill, MD
Adolescent and Pediatric Psychiatry

Janne Johnson, ARNP
Mental Health Nurse Practitioner

➤ **Family Representatives**

Each student is also assigned a family representative to work with them individually in addition to working with their family. Family representatives hold varying degrees or trainings. All Family Representatives have completed the Elements and Parent/Child Workshops hosted by Midwest Academy.

➤ **Communication:**

Initially communication with the student will only be through weekly letters. At level 3 a student is eligible for two phone calls a month, a level 4 is eligible for three phone calls and an off ground visit per month, at level 5 a student is eligible for 3 phone calls per month and one off ground overnight visit, and at level 6 a student is eligible for weekly phone calls and a weeklong home pass monthly or they will be working through a home transition program.

Communication with a family representative during this time will remain weekly through phone calls and e-mail.

➤ **Seminars:**

Our highly dynamic student and family seminars are the core foundation for our character building program. They are designed to help identify student struggles and causes, provide the space and tools heal those internal conflicts, and to provide the time and practice to learn and incorporate new and healthy habits.

Our seminars are experiential hands on training that will give students and their families the opportunity to learn new communication and coping skills in an environment facilitated by professional staff. Students will actively participate in this hands on experience to gain a true understanding of the principals taught and will meet weekly between sessions to continue practice the skills taught. There are several seminars that students must complete in order to graduate the program. They are: Accountability, Elements I, Elements II, Value Living (3 mini one day seminars), and Parent and Child Workshops I, II, and III.

In addition to student participation in seminars, we also require parent involvement. Parent participation will set the bar for the work a student will do. Parent involvement will focus on identification of family values, learning how to open lines of communication, teaching parents how to restructure the home environment to aid student development upon transition home, and understanding the need for loving but consistent parenting. Parents are personally required to attend Elements I and II in addition to attending Parent and Child Workshops I, II, and III.

➤ **Academics:**

Midwest Academy has a progressive academic curriculum that is individualized and competency based. This allows students to work at their pace to maximize the learning process. Students are not held back by others in class, by teacher lesson plans, schedules, or course offerings. This allows students the opportunity to move at an accelerated rate if they put forth the effort.

The courses at Midwest Academy are provided on computers using a state of the art curriculum that includes interactive features, graphs, illustrations, and other multimedia teaching. Some classes are taught in a lecture type setting in conjunction with the computer course work. Those classes include: Oral Communications, Creative Writing, Music, Choir, Art, Spanish, French and a few varied electives. All courses are performance based; students only receive credits when they have demonstrated that they have mastered the material. We require students to maintain a minimum B average.

➤ **Activities:**

Students are awarded activities as they move forward in their program. Activities are planned on a monthly basis and include: pizza parties, movies, BBQ's, painting, makeover parties, video game competitions, and much more. Level 4-6 students may leave facility grounds for activities such as: shopping, amusement parks, movies, bowling, dinner, swimming, golfing, etc.

Midwest Academy also promotes service projects as a chance for students to volunteer and give back to the community. Such projects have included a day of cleaning up after community events, handing out candy for the Keokuk Police Department during Halloween, painting a city park, visiting nursing homes, and assisting at other community events when requested. This not only offers students a chance to BE in service but it also assists them to integrate back into public settings.

For students who meet the requirement and have the ability, there are opportunities to participate in sports at the local high school. We have had Midwest athletes participate in volleyball, basketball, football, track, cross country track, and baseball. Keokuk High School/Midwest Academy students were the Iowa State Football Champs in 2007.

➤ **Parent Support:**

Midwest Academy believes in family. We are a program designed not only to assist students through struggles, but are here to redirect and support their family as well. We have a number of programs created to support new families and to assist them in getting involved.

The Parent Support Association, or PSA, is an organization of parents collectively working together to generate ideas, host various activities, and assist with fundraising efforts throughout the year. This helps parents to stay engaged in special activities which will benefit their child.

We also have a few support groups across, in addition to a Private Facebook Support Group page, and small group calls for parents. We have learned that the most successful families are the ones that put themselves out there and do the work!

➤ **Zero Tolerance Policy:**

Midwest Academy has a zero tolerance policy against acts of violence and physical aggression as well as other dangerous, severely disruptive, or extremely defiant behavior exhibited by any student.

These behaviors will not be tolerated for the following reasons: endangers staff, students, and the school, it distracts and significantly impedes the progress of others, it is destructive to the general environment and positive peer culture, it consumes staff time and attention, allows negative role models to make impressions on new students, and it influences other students to misbehave or act out.

Midwest Academy reserves the right to expel any student that exhibits this type of behavior. If student is expelled, parents will be given advance notice and Midwest Academy will do all we can to assist parents in finding a working alternative.

Our admission process eliminates the acceptance of students who meet this type of criteria. Midwest Academy expulsion rate is less than 1%.

Midwest Academy *Standards of Excellence*

(Criteria for moving forward in levels)

Achievement Status (Level 2)

200 merits

Advanced Status (Level 3)

Must have or exceed 1,000 merits

- No baby act
- Not much negativity
- Doing well in school
- Dealing with issues
- Not much of old image
- Working with parents
- No poor pity me attitude
- Motivated
- Risk taking
- Follows rules
- Good example
- Respectful of others
- Positive influence over family
- Elements I graduate
- Must vote up

Service Status (Level 4)

Must have or exceed 2400 merits

- Must be living all Advanced standards
- Accepts feedback openly
- Confident
- Consistent
- Honest and Trustworthy
- Out of old image
- Aware of issues
- Doing well in school
- Mostly positive
- No justifying
- 100% effort
- Assertive with parents
- Not out for acceptance
- No intentional power struggles

- No better than attitude
- Looking for solutions
- Elements II Graduate
- Must vote up

Honor Status (Level 5)

Must have or exceed 1600 points

- All previous status standards
- Committed to program completion
- Demonstrates empathy
- Confronts peers when useful
- Handles conflicts rationally
- No intimidations
- No cliques
- Showing leadership consistently
- Must vote up

High Honor (Level 6)

Must have or exceed 1600 points

- All previous status standards
- Centered and grounded
- Striving for excellence
- Loving and caring
- Still humble and learning
- Good problem solving skills
- Does not support weakness
- Staffed two seminars (Element I and II, Parent Workshop I)

Graduation

- Must be living all standards
- Complete two successful home visits
- PW1-PW3 graduate
- Minimum of 2 months Internalization
- Must have 1200-1600 merits on High honor status
- Must have a minimum of six days staffing seminars
- Life contract must be complete and approved of by parents

Treatment Team at Midwest Academy

The services of a Clinical Social Worker, licensed professional Social workers, and Certified Reciprocal Alcohol and Drug Counselors are available on campus to the students of Midwest Academy.

Mr. Mike Davis has Associates in Social Work from Ricks College in Idaho, Bachelors in Social Work from Brigham Young University, and Masters in Clinical Social Work from University of Utah Graduate School of Social Work. Mike is a Licensed Independent Social Worker in Iowa, a license equal to a Clinical Social Worker License in other states. He has over 20 years experience providing psychotherapy to children, young adults, individuals, couples, and through family counseling.

The ***Anger Management*** group involves guided discussions and exercises on topics such as understanding anger, emergency anger control, healthy versus unhealthy anger, anger types, the role anger plays in society and families, learning how to decline invitations to anger, creating coping thoughts, plus relaxation and stress reduction techniques. This group meets weekly for approximately 8 weeks.

The ***Adoption Group*** provides those students with an opportunity to talk through their unique issues with other adopted youth in a facilitated setting. Topics include establishing a sense of personal identity, working through feelings of rejection or abandonment, dealing with sibling rivalry, coping with life's milestones and "special" days, and searching for biological family. This group does not have a specified length.

The ***Emotional Literacy*** is geared toward improving the student's ability to recognize and understand the emotions which are behind their perceptions, choices, and feelings in order to promote more constructive behavior. Topics include risky behavior, friends, trust, accountability, forgiveness of self and others and preparing for the future.

Mr. Gary LaChapelle is a Certified Reciprocal Alcohol and Drug Counselor and has a B.A., M.A. in Psychology. He has earned his education through Southeastern Community College, Jacksonville University, Auburn University, and California Coast University. Gary has had 21 years of experience working in the public sector prior to joining the staff at Midwest Academy in June of 2004.

Mr. LaChapelle provides individual counseling in addition to hosting chemical dependency groups.

The *Chemical Dependency* group focuses on the total person. The students work on many issues from the 12 step program in addition to other topics such as relapse prevention, choices and change, feelings, anger issues, avoiding risky behaviors, balancing lifestyle, recovery maintenance, coping skills, decision making skills, and much more. Most students will normally receive between 75 and 80 hours of chemical dependency counseling while at Midwest Academy.

Ms. Jane Riter has a Bachelors in Psychology and a Masters in Counseling Education from Western Illinois University and is a licensed mental health counselor in the state of Iowa and Illinois. Jane has 19 years of experience in providing mental health treatment for children, adolescents, adults, couples and families. Jane utilizes play therapy techniques with children and adolescents and is experienced with providing care to traumatized victims and their families. She has experience with substance abuse support groups for males and females, residential treatment for chronically mentally ill individuals and adolescents and in-home family services for children and their families.

Shasta Heidbreder has an Associates in Applied Science and a BA in Psychology from Penn Foster College and is a licensed Chemical Dependency Alcohol Counselor in the State of Iowa. Shasta is also a certified CPI Instructor trained through the Crisis Prevention Institute. She provides regular non violent crisis prevention training to Midwest Academy employees.

Ms. Callie Peterson has an Associates in Applied Science from Southeastern Community College and is a licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor in the State of Iowa. Callie is finishing her intern hours under the direction of Clinical Director, Mike Davis, and will be licensed as a Chemical Dependency Alcohol Counselor in 2015.

Mrs. Layani Trane graduated from Southern Utah University with her Bachelors in Public Relations and Bachelors in Interpersonal Communications. She graduated from California Coast University with her Masters in Psychology. Mrs. Trane is the wife of Midwest Academy Founder, Ben Trane.

Mr. Ray Forrester completed his internship at Midwest Academy in the summer of 2014. He returned to BYU School of Social Work to finish his Masters degree. We are excited that Ray will be returning with his license in April of 2015.

Psychiatric Services

Midwest Academy contracts TeleHealth services through Seasons Center for Behavioral Health to provide psychiatric evaluation, consultation, and medication management to Midwest Academy students. This service is billed directly to insurance with co payments and any remaining liabilities billed to parents or guardians.

- Janne Johnson, ARNP is the Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner for Midwest Academy through Seasons Center TeleHealth Network. Mrs. Johnson has her BSN through Briar Cliff University, Masters of Science in Nursing through Creighton University, and her Post Master's Certificate through Medical University of South Carolina.
*Ms. Johnson is under direct supervision of several psychiatrists on staff at Seasons Center.

Psychiatric services are also offered through a psychiatrist off campus. Dr. St. Hill meets with students in his office setting to provide evaluations, prescriptions, and medication management. These services are billed directly to insurance with parents being responsible for any co-payments or remaining liabilities not covered by insurance. We also offer the opportunity for students to continue working with their psychiatrist at home through video or teleconferencing. This must be discussed with and agreed to by family psychiatrist prior to enrollment. Providers do not provide full scale psychological assessments.

- Dr. Ronald G. St. Hill, MD
Adolescent and Pediatric Psychiatry
Dr. St. Hill attended medical school at the University of The West Indies with residency at Long Island Jewish Medical Center and Albert Einstein College. He completed his fellowship at Long Island Jewish Medical Center and Schneider Children's Hospital.

About the Founder of Midwest Academy

Ben Trane was introduced to work in the adolescent treatment field in the summer of 1996 while working at a facility in St. George, Utah. Ben experienced a process of observing families shift from sick and dysfunctional to whole and healthy. This ignited a passion to be in service to families in need.

Ben attended Southern Utah University and majored in Business and Computer Science. While in college, he helped start Teens in Crisis. Teens in Crisis provided struggling families the necessary resources to identify and locate treatment programs and educational services to meet their family's needs.

Ben also began offering transportation services to provide safe passage for students going into residential care. Through this process he was able to explore various schools and differing philosophies, and gained vast knowledge of what key components created a successful program.

In 2002 Ben ventured east in hopes to find a good central location within the Midwest region to start his own school. He traveled from the upper part of Wisconsin to southern Texas and found a wonderful place to call home in Keokuk, Iowa. In the spring of 2003, he married his beautiful wife, Layani, and they started Midwest Academy in June that same year.

The school started with humble roots with a few close families working together to launch a small, 10-student program. Midwest Academy grew quickly to over 300 students in the first two years. The student body has fluctuated over the years, leading to the determination that a healthy number of students on campus should remain between 120-150 students. Midwest Academy is one of the largest private therapeutic boarding schools in the country.

Midwest Academy has helped thousands of families since its first student arrived in 2003. During this time Ben has developed a 24-week course on helping individuals and families gain control of their households and personal lives. His dynamic series of personal growth and family seminars are a strong catalyst for change with students and their families. Most students remark that these highly inspired seminars are the most important and memorable part of their healing process.

Ben's family has grown considerably over the years. He and Layani have 7 children, five biological and two adopted. They reside on the school campus and love the interaction the students can have with their family. In essence, students become an extension of the Trane Family. For The Tranes, Midwest Academy isn't a job; it is a lifestyle and a passion to be in service to others.

Midwest Academy

High School Graduation Requirements

A total of 24 academic credits are needed to graduate from high school. Required credits will be assessed based on the student's proposed graduation plan. Credits will be required as outlined below:

Required Credits (16)

English	4 Credits	Government	1/2 Credit
Math	3 Sequential Credits	Art	1 Credit
Science	3 Sequential Credits	Physical Education	1 1/2 Credits
Social Sciences	3 Credits	Health	1/2 Credit
US History	1/2 Credit		

Elective Credits (8 Required)

American Literature	Home Economics	*ACT/SAT Prep
British Literature	Intro to Business	
Computer Hardware	Language Enrichment	
Computer Hardware II	Lifetime Fitness	
Child Development	Math Enrichment	
Computer Repair	Media Production	
Character Building	Parenting	
Choir	Pilot Training	
College Planner	Spanish I	
Constitution	Spanish II	
Consumer Math	Spanish Conversations	
Creative Writing	Strength and Conditioning	
French I	Study Skills	
French II	Then and Now	

Academic Faculty

2014-2015

ADAM (Teacher – Specialty: Physical Education)

Master of Education in Secondary Administration

3 Years: Teacher at MWA

3 Years: Teacher PE & Social Studies, Clark County, MO, R-I Public Schools

1 Year: At-risk 11-12 grade iJAG instructor at Burlington, IA, Community High School,

Missouri certificate: K-12 PE, K-12 Health; 5-9 Social Studies

Iowa teaching certificate: Pre-K–12, PE; Pre-K–12 Health; Pre-K–12 Athletic Coach

1 Year: Electrician apprentice

3 months: Lived in Italy as an exchange student

1 Year: Hosted exchange student from Holland in his home

1 Year: Hosted exchange student from Portugal in his home

AMY (Teacher – Specialties: Reading/Math/Library)

Master of Science in Education & Master of Arts in School Library Studies

1st year teaching at MWA

12 Years: Teacher at Keokuk, IA, Community School District

6 Years: Teacher at Hamilton Consolidated School District, Hamilton, IL

1 year: Teacher at Streator, IL

Specialties include: Reading Specialist, Library Science, Media Specialist

Experience: K-12 Media Specialist; 6-12 Title 1 Reading & Math; K-3 Title I Reading; 6th Grade

Reading & Math; 4th grade general education

Two summers: Chaperoned Junior High students in Kai, Japan,

Five summers: Hosted exchange students from Japan in her home

BOB (Teacher – Specialty: Math/Science)

Master of Science in Education

6 Years: Teacher at MWA

28 Years: Teacher at Keokuk, IA, Community School District

1 Year: Teacher at Ft. Madison, IA, Community School District

1 Year: Teacher at Dennison, IA, Community School District

4 years: U.S. Air Force – Stationed in Denver, CO, & Sunnyvale, CA

CHRISTINE (Teacher – Specialty: Math/Science/Special Education)

Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education

1st year teaching at MWA

Completed Special Education Mild/Moderate Methods 5-12 practicum in Keokuk, IA

Completed Title 1 Teaching practicum for at-risk students in Keokuk, IA
Completed Second Chance Reading practicum at Mt. Pleasant, IA
1 Year: Substitute teacher Keokuk, IA, Catholic School
1 Year: Substitute teacher at Keokuk, IA, Community School District
3 Years: Teacher Associate at Keokuk, IA, Community School District
1 Year: Home & Community Based Services Outreach Worker
19 Years: Active volunteer for civic organizations in Keokuk, IA, & Hamilton, IL

ED B (Teacher – Specialty: Special Education)

Master of Science in Learning Disabilities
2 Years: Teacher at MWA
30 Years: Teacher in Iowa public schools to include:
13 Years: Teacher at Keokuk, IA, Community School District
5 Years: Multi-categorical high school teacher working with learning disabled & Behavior-disorder students
2 Years: Teacher of primary MDT (mentally disabled - trainable) students
2 Years: Upper level elementary teacher of MDE (mentally disabled - educable) students
2 Years: Special education teacher with the Peace Corps in Kingston, Jamaica
Other travels abroad have included France, Germany, & Italy

ED S (Teacher – Specialty: Math)

Bachelor of Science in Mathematics
1 year: Math teacher at MWA
32 years: Math teacher, Hamilton, IL
6 years: Part-time in math & substitute teacher in various subjects, Warsaw, IL

EHREN (Registrar/Teacher – Specialty: Special Education)

Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education
1st year teaching at MWA
8 Years: At-risk Students teacher in Alternative Middle School program, Keokuk, IA
4 Years: Special Education teacher at Harding Middle School, Des Moines, IA
3 Years: Behavior Disorder teacher in Keokuk, IA
2 Years: Substitute teacher in Des Moines, West Des Moines, Urbandale, & Johnston, IA
Holds several Special Education endorsements from Grandview College, Des Moines, IA

GRETCHEN (Teacher – Specialties: Spanish/Home Economics)

Master of Arts in Curriculum Instruction
3 Years: Teacher at MWA
40 Years: Teacher at Keokuk, IA, High School & Middle School
Completed Spanish studies at University of Durango, Durango, Mexico
Travels: Include 26 countries on five continents

JERRY (Teacher – Specialty: Math/Science)

PhD in Agronomy & PhD in Agriculture Education
1st year teaching at MWA
38 Years: Teaching experience (Math, Science,) at high school & university-level

4 Years: Working for government & university research organizations in the South Pacific

MARSHA (Teacher – Specialty: English)

Bachelor of Arts in English

1 1/2 years: Teacher at MWA

2 years: Teacher, Bloomfield, IA

35 years: Teacher, Keokuk, IA (middle school emphasis)

33 years: Language Arts Department Chair, Keokuk Middle School Keokuk, IA

Activities at Keokuk Middle School include: Sponsoring school newspaper, writing club,

8th grade book club, scholastic book fairs, writing competitions, writing anthologies,

5 years: Hosted Japanese teachers for 2 weeks each year in her classroom

RICHARD (Head Teacher – Specialty: Music/French)

Master of Arts in Human Resource Development

1 1/2 years: Teacher at MWA

4 years: Adjunct Faculty, Department of Fine Arts, Cameron U., Lawton, OK

4 Years: Designed training classes for elite 165-member unit, Ft. Meade, MD

20 Years: Directed bands for U.S. Army (TX, OK, Germany)

10 years: Lived in Germany & traveled to 12 other European countries

Other travel includes: Israel, China, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Canada, Mexico, & Bermuda

Sponsored students from: Japan, Jordan, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Greece, & Singapore

1 year: Hosted exchange student from Malaysia in his home

2 years: Hosted Russian exchange students & teachers for one week each year

RITA (Teacher – Specialty: Special Education)

Associate of Arts

9 Years: Teacher at MWA

20 Years: Teaching special needs students in Keokuk, IA

19 Years: Active volunteer for religious & civic organizations in Keokuk, IA

Para-educator Certificate from Iowa

TOM (Teacher – Specialty: English)

Master of Arts in English

4 1/2 years: Teacher at Midwest Academy

8 months: Boys Triad Coordinator, Midwest Academy

7 years: Adjunct Faculty (5 years: Spoon River College, Macomb, IL; 3 years: Carl Sandburg

College, Carthage, IL; 2 years: John Wood Community College, Quincy, IL; One summer: Southeastern Community College, Keokuk, IA)

15 years: Substitute (K-12): Dallas City (IL) School District & Nauvoo Colusa (IL) School District

1 1/2 years: Tutor-Western Illinois University Writing Center, Macomb, IL

2 years: Private Tutor (2nd grade-college) In Dallas City, IL

Parent Support Association

Mission Statement:

Enhance the relationships between parents, students, and Midwest Academy in order to create a whole and healthy family environment.

Goals:

The Midwest Academy PSA has 4 major goals that we are always striving to achieve. Our goals are always evolving in order to create a strong relationship between parents, students, and Midwest Academy. Through these goals, parents can show their support of creating a whole and healthy family environment by being involved.

- 1) Provide a structured platform for parents to practice new habits and tools obtained through working the program provided by Midwest Academy.
- 2) Provide parents an avenue to enhance their experience while enrolled at Midwest Academy.
- 3) Provide a structure for parents to voice and show their support for their student and Midwest Academy.
- 4) To provide graduating students who seek further education, a scholarship for financial assistance through fund raising efforts.

Activities:

Research suggests that family engagement promotes a range of benefits for students, including improved program performance, higher student achievement, and increased likelihood of success after program completion. The PSA will create activities in which parents can become engaged in to show their commitment and support of creating change. The PSA will be open to any and all suggestions from its members to enhance and add to the list of activities. Below are just some of the activities that the PSA will provide to get families engaged

Annual PSA Fundraiser Banquet

The Annual PSA Banquet is a formal setting that was created to acknowledge the accomplishments of students, parents, and Midwest Academy; and to present the annual PSA Scholarship. This activity is also designed as a fund raiser for future planned activities, the PSA Scholarships, and improvements at Midwest Academy.

The following are the scheduled PSA activities for 2014-2015 Enrollment Season

November 28th Thanksgiving Activity

The PSA welcomes members to attend with their child level 3 and above, details around this activity are TBA.

December 20th Christmas Activity

Students will celebrate in holiday activities with their family at level 3 and above.

April 4th Easter Activity

Students who have reached level 3 and above may participate in Spring Holiday activities with their family. The details around this activity are TBA.

May 9th Parent Support Association Scholarship Fundraiser and Silent Auction

Banquet to raise funds to support the PSA Scholarship Fund awarding two individuals a one thousand dollar college scholarship each year they are enrolled in college and maintaining a 3.0 GPA.

July 3rd Midwest Academy BBQ and School Reunion

Event open to all students, past and present, with activities scheduled throughout the day, commencing with a BBQ and Fireworks Celebration.

Holiday Charity Projects Include:

Adopt a Family Academy and PSA Members adopt one or two families in need over the holiday and help to provide toys, necessities, and food donations to make their Christmas memorable.

Blankets for Tots Students make blankets for the Keokuk Area Hospital to be given to children staying in the hospital through the holidays.

Pack the Pantry Girls and Boys compete to raise food items to donate to God's Way Christian Church Food Pantry. The winning team wins a party!

