

PAC Minutes
October 17, 2017

- Welcome to first PAC meeting and Introductions.
- Communication: A shared Google document will be used to set up agendas for the meeting- all members can contribute. Mail blasts will be sent to remind parents that they can call or email their reps to request specific topics be put on the agenda.
- Discussion on opening of school- things were very smooth and students report being happy and comfortable.
- Questions about Advisory were answered-
 - Advisory will take place on every other Wednesday.
 - Advisory 43 minutes.
 - To start 2 teachers to 20 students, most likely to break into smaller groups with 10 to one teacher.
 - First meeting was a school wide assembly to celebrate the National Blue Ribbon Award and how we honor our Briarcliff Credo.
 - October 18 students will participate in a School Climate Survey.
 - Using Dr. Maurice Elias (Rutgers) program for Social Decision Making/Social Problem Solving for Middle School Students-
 - First Topics: Helping students talk to each other in a more civil way; self-control and self-calming strategies; Identifying trigger situations: How to recognize personal sources of stress; how to deal with stressful situations.
- Programs being brought to students-
 - Don't Press Send.
 - Rethink App.
 - New Bridges- Developing Resiliency and Coping Skills.
 - Eileen Ludwig teaching in 6th grade classes.
- Homework – No homework concerns.
- Health Class Discussion- what is taught in each grade- can students leave if they are uncomfortable (yes, the teacher always permits students to leave if they don't want to see a movie or have issues with a sensitive topic. Parents are called and notified.
- Math Questions-
 - Discussion on the changes to the math program and the feedback (positive) it has been receiving.