

## *ANCHOR BAY MIDDLE SCHOOL SOUTH*

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Dear Middle School South Families,

Welcome to another great school year at Middle School South! It is an exciting time to be South Strong! The first day of school is quickly approaching – September 5th, 2023. The staff and I are thrilled to share another year of learning together with all of our wonderful students. This letter is filled with important information about the upcoming school year.

First, I'd like to introduce myself. My name is Phil Latona, and I have been with Anchor Bay School District for 20 years. In my first nine years in the District, I taught 9th Grade American History and coached baseball and football at Anchor Bay High School. In the 2013-14 school year, I served as Assistant Principal at Anchor Bay Middle School South. The following year I had the privilege of being the principal at Dean A. Naldrett Elementary School and had a wonderful experience. I am currently in my 10th year as Principal at Anchor Bay Middle School South and love being at the middle school level.

Our Assistant Principal is Paige Hunter, and she is entering her sixth year in that role. She taught English for 18 years at Lake Orion High School. There she was also the high school ELA department chair and the district secondary ELA curriculum chair. Additionally, she was the dance team coach and taught an adaptive creative movement class.

In terms of academic success at South, the staff has specific goals for each school year and look to exceed past years' accomplishments in all academic subjects. This can be achieved only with your continued support. We value your input and look forward to a quality school-home working relationship in order to build on our successes. We hope you are able to visit us often and look forward to offering opportunities for you to be involved in our school.

South is also committed to our PBIS (Positive Behavior and Intervention Support) program which aims to prevent inappropriate behavior through teaching and reinforcing appropriate behaviors. In support to PBIS, South will be continuing the Positivity Project (P2) throughout the school year. The mission of this program is to empower America's youth to build positive relationships and become their best selves. P2 will also partner with South and equip staff with the resources, training, and strategy to teach their students.

Improving communication with parents will continue to be an area of focus for myself this school year. We will be working hard at keeping you informed of what is happening at South through our homepage, Schoology, and School Messenger. Each month parents will be emailed important reminders and upcoming events via School Messenger. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the main office at 586-949-4510.

In closing, we want our students to have pride and a sense of belonging to their school. Coming to school every day with a positive attitude and a willingness to learn is vital to their success. We want our students to feel safe, appreciated, and welcomed when they come into the building each day.

Sincerely,  
Phil Latona  
Principal Anchor Bay Middle School South