

## About Me:

Originally from New York, I have lived in Brevard County since 1994. This is my 19<sup>th</sup> year teaching at Kennedy Middle School and third year as AVID Coordinator. Prior to teaching, I enjoyed over a ten-year career in Major League Baseball working in Public Relations and Baseball Operations for the New York Yankees, Florida Marlins and Baseball Expos.

I'm a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications with a minor in English. I have my Professional Certification in Athletic Administration from St. John's University, New York.

My husband is also a BPS teacher at the Brevard County Juvenile Detention Center. Our son is in his last year of his master's program in Sports Communication & Media at Iona University in NY. He graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Multiplatform Journalism from Florida Institute of Technology where he was also collegiate athlete on the Florida Tech baseball team. Our daughter begins her first year at Marymount University where she will major in Design Studies with emphasis in studio art and fashion design. She also is a collegiate athlete on the Marymount Saints Women's Golf team. Also part of the family are Peaches (our dog) and Eva (our cat).

Dear Families:

My apologies for not being able to meet you at our KMS Open House. I am currently in Virginia moving my daughter to college.

Some things about my class I would like for you to know:

My class is designed to make your student independent and learning the necessary skills for them to excel in their classes here, in high school, and beyond. The daily schedule is regimented for them to stay on target with their classes. Becoming independent and promoting self-advocacy is a major key for my class. With that being said, I know as parents (especially the 7<sup>th</sup> grade parents) you want to know what is happening in class and want to follow up with requirements. What I ask, is that you speak with your student first. If your student has questions, please allow them the opportunity to speak to the teacher first. Whether it is my class or any other class; the students are the ones sitting in the classroom hearing the information and participating in the lectures which will allow the teacher to easily reply to your student. If after several attempts to get an answer from your child without success, then at that point, by all means contact the teacher.

In addition to learning skills, AVID students will participate in Tutorials and Personal Career/Panther Prep will participate in Collaborative Study Groups. There is specific curriculum for the AVID students by the National AVID program. The Personal Career/Panther Prep students will follow concepts from Habits of Highly Effective Teens and studies from Growth Mindset. Each of the Personal Career and Panther Prep teachers specialize in different areas, for example, Mr. Reed focuses on math where my class has AVID as its core and also Literature and Composition. Students will also be actively checking their grades weekly.

Just a reminder students should have a minimum 3 inch binder; AVID students 4 inch. Teachers have informed students about tabs required for the binder and interactive notebooks (spirals). All books should be kept together within the binder.

Thank you.

Ms. Luchs

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