

## WELCOME LETTER

Dear Students, Parents and our KMS Community,

I want to welcome each of you to Kadena Middle School for our 2008-2009 School Year. KMS was built in 1990 as the first 'middle school' specific facility on the island of Okinawa. KMS well deserves its reputation for delivering a unique curriculum specifically for middle-school students. This middle school concept drives everything from scheduling classes to the locations for locker distribution. The highly trained professional DoDDS educators, paraprofessionals and support personnel believe in the unique niche middle school education provides and enjoy the rewards of nurturing middle school aged students in all facets of their developing lives.

Middle school students are highly inquisitive, active, socially developing and arrive at KMS with a broad spectrum of developed competencies and skills. We are terribly fortunate to have the BEST possible circumstances for educating young adults.

Excellent staff; more than 45% of our KMS teachers have advanced degrees. They are committed to learning about the teaching craft and incorporate strategies that specifically engage our young adults and connect their learning to our changing world.

Supportive parents and community; engaged as volunteers to work with teachers in the delivery of academic support, fundraising through our Parent Teacher Organization, or as special project instructors for before and after-school programs. Each student comes from a home environment that has stable home incomes, good housing and excellent recreational and support facilities.

Probably our strongest local asset is the common moral fiber that bonds our unique military support community ~ nationalism, that sense of duty, loyalty and obligation to do what is best for our charge and work very hard achieving that goal. While we have very minor issues with negative influences like gangs or drugs, our communities do not tolerate influences that deter or undermine the common good order that allows us to focus on the positive.

These positive influences make a difference in student performance data. On a remote western Pacific island, with families that send loved ones to distant lands in harm's way, our students score higher than most stateside schools on TerraNova standardized tests. DoDDS 8<sup>th</sup> graders recently led the nation in performance achievement. These are not accidents.

I am a cheerleader for 'Team Kadena'. I will work to include you, parent or community member, into our school in ways that benefit students. Conferences, visits, question sessions, classroom presentations or event support to raise funds and have fun are fundamental parts of better schools. Kadena Middle School is a better school. I want you in our school.

Come in and get to know us. Ask me about my 'Three R's of Education'. Be part of a highly successful component of the education continuum ~ Middle School.

Here to help.



Mike McClain  
Principal, Kadena Middle School