

September, 2024

Dear Pine Brook Families,

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year! I hope you are all having a positive start to the new school year. I also hope you had some time over the summer to relax and spend time doing things you enjoy. The summer went by so fast, and I hope you are all ready for a year full of lots of growing and new experiences.

I would like to start by introducing myself. For those of you who do not know me yet, my name is Caitlin Ambroze, and I will be your child's School Counselor at Pine Brook School. This is my seventh year as the school counselor at Pine Brook and my eighth year in the district. I was a school counselor at the elementary level during my first year in the district. I am beyond excited to meet all of our incoming sixth graders!

I understand that starting middle school is an exciting transition that may be bringing up different feelings for you and your child. I also recognize that each child's response to circumstances regarding transition and managing change is unique. My goal is that as your child's school counselor, I provide a consistent manner of support to your children. I am here to support you and your child and do everything I can to ensure a smooth transition into Pine Brook and towards a healthy and happy school year.

I am here to support your children at school, including on an individual basis. In an individual meeting, I provide a supportive, non-judgemental environment and work together with students to discuss whatever issues they are experiencing. I do not just give advice or tell students what to do, but rather help them come up with solutions, teach strategies, and help students see how they can choose behaviors that will best help them. I am flexible and willing to approach student issues in a way that works best for them.

No matter the feelings you and your child may be having about starting this school year, I will be here to support you and your family. We will work together step by step to make this sixth grade year as amazing as it can be. One of the most important things to remember is that we are in this together! Never hesitate to reach out to me by phone at 732-786-2813, or by email at <u>cambroze@mersnj.us</u>.

Sincerely, Caitlin Ambroze Caitlin Ambroze School Counselor