An Overview of The Den at Young Middle School
Keisha Gibbons
The Dynamic Den Staff
Basic Needs expand to include bodily changes that accompany puberty. Increased need for food and sleep can cause strain if there is not a supportive environment.

Students begin to shift out of focusing solely on the present to being curious about the **FUTURE**. They start to see patterns in their actions and how that may impact their goals.

**They are very...UNIQUE!**

Students seek out independence as they enter adolescence but still need support in training the brain (**emotions**) to properly interpret information. Students begin to see situations in the gray and less black and white, but need support to make sense of these feelings.

This is the developmental stage where brains learn to **THINK, REASON and REMEMBER**. Increased curiosity in subject matter is common.
What is Something We Didn’t Know About You, But if We Had Known We Could Have Helped?

“Some stuff that was happening at home”

“I was depressed in 6th grade behind closed doors”

“I have lost plenty of people”

“I have low self-esteem”  “I was in an accident”

“I have social anxiety”  “ANXIETY”  “Trying seems Hopeless”

“No one LISTENED to me”
So... what are we doing with all this information from students and families?
The DEN at Young Middle School

**WHAT WE ARE**

Middle School is a **unique developmental stage** for children. The Den provides an **additional layer of support** so students can effectively navigate their **academic and social environment**. The Den is more than a place! It embodies our school’s value of providing **comprehensive holistic support for every student** at Jean Childs Young Middle School.

**WHAT WE DO**

The **core pillars** upon which The Den was conceived are illustrated in our “**Wolf Strides**”:

- **Social Emotional Well Being**
- **Academic Success**
- **Basic Needs Support**
- **Access and Exposure**
We believe access to social and emotional support empowers students and families to effectively navigate the challenges of middle school.

Social Emotional Well-Being

The Den Will Provide:

- **Mental Health Services:** Licensed mental health providers in the school building supporting individuals, student groups, and families

- **Zen Zones:** Designated peaceful spaces for students to utilize when they need room to calm down and self-regulate

- **Restorative Practices:** Mending harm done in the school community to build stronger relationships on the other side of conflict
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>School-base</strong></th>
<th><strong>SEL</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SEL lessons-Second Step</td>
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<td>Check in/outs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Counselor Sessions/Group/Class lesson</td>
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<td>BCBA</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Business Partnerships</strong></th>
<th><strong>SEL</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Hands on Atlanta-SEL Coaches</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Wholistic Health and TheraPINK-Small groups</td>
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<td>• At Promise Center-Alternative to home suspension placement</td>
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The Den Will Provide:

- **Tutoring**: 1:1 and small group academic support
- **Study Groups**: Guided, subject-focused, small group study sessions

We believe that with focused academic support outside of the classroom all students can reach their academic goals.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The DEN Menu of Services</th>
<th>Academic Success</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School-base</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Standards based-instruction-(in classroom support)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Small groups</td>
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<tr>
<td>Differentiated instruction</td>
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<td>Direct Instruction</td>
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<td>Reteach</td>
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<td>Engagement Reach of students (counselors)</td>
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<td>REP Teachers</td>
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<tr>
<td>MTSS Supports</td>
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<td>Business Partnerships</td>
<td>Progressive Steps- After school support</td>
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</tbody>
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Basic Needs Support

The Den Will Provide:

- **Uniforms:** Dressing our students for success every day
- **School Supplies:** Ensuring students have the tools they need to learn
- **Personal Health:** Support for students’ rapidly changing middle school bodies

We believe that when student’s **basic needs** are met they can engage effectively in their **social and emotional environment**.
# The DEN Menu of Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basic Needs</th>
<th>School-base</th>
<th>Business Partnerships</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Uniforms</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Supplies</td>
<td>Basic needs supplies</td>
<td>Various local churches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hygiene supplies</td>
<td>Food supports</td>
<td>Homeless Period Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food supports</td>
<td>Transportation supports</td>
<td>Fulton County Health Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation supports</td>
<td>Medical resources</td>
<td>Social Worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical resources</td>
<td>Onsite laundry services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Onsite laundry services</td>
<td>Onsite hair grooming</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Onsite hair grooming</td>
<td>Social Worker</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
We believe students need exposure to a variety of opportunities, experiences, and career paths to envision a successful future.

The Den Will Provide:

- **Extracurricular Activities:** Clubs, Field Trips, Sports, and more!
- **Student-to-Student Mentoring:** Bringing our students together with high school and college students for academic and special interest mentoring
- **Career Exploration:** Exposure to a variety of career paths to expand our students’ awareness of post-secondary opportunities
# The DEN Tiered of Supports

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tier 1 Support</th>
<th>Available to all students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Access and Exposure</strong></td>
<td><strong>Tier 2 Support</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clubs</td>
<td><strong>Tier 3 Support</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College and Career Ready</td>
<td><strong>Access and Exposure</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Trips</td>
<td><strong>Tier 2 Support</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mentoring</td>
<td><strong>Access and Exposure</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School-Based-Club Sponsors</td>
<td><strong>Tier 3 Support</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-Counselors</td>
<td><strong>Tier 3 Support</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partners: Big Brother Big Sister</td>
<td><strong>Tier 3 Support</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Den Referral Process

Who can do referrals?
- Counselors
- MTLs
- AP
- Den Personnel

Timeline for referrals
- Assignments within 48 hours
- Communicate to referrer, AP, MTL and teachers
Testimonial

A family member a seventh grader says it best: “I really appreciate The Den. At first, I didn’t know I needed help until working with the social-emotional learning coach. Thanks to their support I feel we can get through this one day at a time knowing there are people there to help.”

Keisha Gibbons
The Den Director
Young Middle School

https://www.atlantapublicschools.us/young
Securing Active Partnerships

Dr. Nicole Jones
Den Staff Processes and Procedures
BCBA

- Den Pillar: Social Emotional Well Being
- Works with Tier III and DSE students
  - Interventions
  - Safety Plans
  - Progress Monitoring
- Schoolwide positive behavior initiative
Counselors

- Den Pillar: Social Emotional Well Being and Access and Exposure
- MTSS support Tier I and Tier II
  - Interventions
  - Progress Monitoring
- Collaborates with SEL Coaches
- Completes referrals for SEL services
- Provides 1:1 and small group support
  - Work with key resources to assist with external groups
- SEL lessons for staff
- New student orientation and ambassadors
- Career readiness
Den Clerk

- Den Pillar: All
- Maintains schedules for rooms on the Den
- Keeps logs for students/staff entering/exiting the Den
- Assists and supports Den Staff with getting students to appointments
- Performs clerical activities when needed
- Maintains, manages and organizes Den Zen Zone materials, tools and equipment.
Den MTL

- Den Pillar: All
- MTSS support:
  - Teacher support
  - Implementation Support
  - Attend MTSS meetings:
    - Determine needs
    - Ensure all students have appropriate services
- Assigns Den referrals to appropriate Den resources
- Contacts parents for Den Referrals
- Monitors services for patterns and recommendations for services
- Maintains Title 1 documentation
Engagement Specialist

- Den Pillar: Access and Exposure and Social Emotional Well Being
- Solicits, secures and maintains partnerships
- School Culture:
  - Student Activities
  - Parent Workshops
  - Staff Activities
- Works with BCBA to support Liveschool
Social Worker

• Den Pillar: Basic Needs and Social Emotional Well Being
• Provides updates to attendance concerns
• Student support:
  • Crisis
  • Mental Health Referrals
  • Child abuse training, interviews and referrals
• SEL support
• Supports/secure basic needs resources:
  • Thanksgiving baskets
  • Snacks for students
  • Holiday needs
• Baber and beautician
• Uniforms
• Etc.
SEL Coaches

• Den Pillar: Social Emotional Well Being
• Schedules and supports SEL program
  • Check in/out
  • SEL mini lessons
• Works with assigned grade levels
• On going monitoring of specific data for assigned students:
  • Attendance (previous year, quarter, semester, and monthly)
  • Behavior monitoring (suspension, behavior occurrence)
• Provides consistent progress status to student’s teacher to provide on going status
• Works with grade level counselors to problem solve
BBBS Lead Mentors

- Den Pillar: Social Emotional Well Being and Access and Exposure
- Schedules and supports SEL program
  - Check in/out
  - SEL mini lessons
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- Provides consistent progress status to student’s teacher to provide on going status
- Works with grade level counselors to problem solve
Dispro Staff

• Den Pillar: All
• District Provided Support
• CARE Team Member
• MTSS support:
  • Teacher support
  • Implementation Support
  • Attend MTSS meetings:
    • Determines needs
    • Ensures all students have appropriate services
Call Out Process

• Call me the moment you find you will be late **IF** you do not get me send a text.

• If you have a case you are going to be absent for; call me ASAP, text only if you don’t get me.

• If you request an advance absence, please email and confirm approval. *Try not to schedule appointments on a Tuesday.*

• APs do not approve critical days (Fridays, Mondays, holidays, or etc.), Mr. Garlington should be contacted then follow up with an email copying Gibbons and Nowell.
Communication Process

- On going communication between AP, MTL, and appropriate Den staff → Weekly PLC → Weekly Updates (emailed)

- Monthly 1:1 check in meetings → In the moment: Text, GroupMe → Respond to requests or tasks within 48 hours

- Always come from a place of good will → Use clear and direct communication → Use professional and caring tone
Documentation Resources

The Den Referral-
The Den Referral 2023

The Den Service-
The Den Services 2023

Impact Log-
The Den Impact Log 2023
### Meeting Schedule

- Weekly schedule: Mondays-Thursdays= student support and Fridays office hours (get paperwork done), meetings and on call support.
- Meeting schedule: Fridays 10:00a or 2:30p

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When</th>
<th>1st Week</th>
<th>2nd Week</th>
<th>3rd Week</th>
<th>4th Week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Lead</em></td>
<td>MTSS</td>
<td>Attendance*</td>
<td>CARE Team*</td>
<td>Den PLC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudduth*</td>
<td>Mcgee*</td>
<td>Hughley*</td>
<td>Gibbons*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Who</strong></td>
<td>Brown</td>
<td>Jones</td>
<td>Jones</td>
<td>Brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnson, Ward, and Colbert</td>
<td>Johnson, Ward, and Colbert</td>
<td>Johnson, Ward, and Colbert</td>
<td>All Staff</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hughley</td>
<td>Hughley</td>
<td>McGee</td>
<td>Brown</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tsai</td>
<td>Sudduth</td>
<td>Consult: Jones</td>
<td>Consult: Tsai and Sudduth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consult: Jones</td>
<td>Brown</td>
<td>Consult: Tsai and Sudduth</td>
<td>Brown</td>
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The Den Promotion Video
My Contact Information

Keisha Gibbons
School: Young Middle School
Email: kgibbons@apsk12.org
Office Number: 404-802-5932
Cell: 678-773-7800