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Middle Start's Publishing Efforts Are Recognized

New York, NY, November 14, 2005. Middle Start is making its mark in prominent middle grades education publications.

Middle Start team members Pritha Gopalan, Steve Hoelscher, Teri West, and Patrick Montesano wrote a chapter titled, "Using Research to Refine School Improvement in the Middle Grades: Perspective from Middle Start". This chapter was recently published in *Making a Difference: Action Research in Middle Level Education*, edited by Micki Caskey. The volume is the fifth in the series, *The Handbook of Research in Middle Level Education*. The authors use action research to illuminate how learning communities (school communities and reform partners) support middle grades educational improvement at the regional and national level. The authors conclude that multilevel learning communities are important to the ongoing improvement and growth of educational initiatives, as they together form an infrastructure for middle grades educational reform.

In addition to Patrick Montesano, Middle Start team members Maud Abeel and Lea Williams Rose wrote about Middle Start, Early Awareness and School Culture. These entries were recently published in the first ever *Encyclopedia of Middle Grades Education*, which was unveiled at the annual National Middle School Conference in Philadelphia, PA. The *Encyclopedia of Middle Grades Education* provides a comprehensive overview of middle level education.

Both publications are available through Information Age Publishing, Inc. based in Greenwich, Connecticut. www.infoagepub.com

About Middle Start. Middle Start emphasizes three research-based goals that create the foundation for student success in grades six through eight: academic excellence; developmental responsiveness; and social equity. These goals can be reached through small learning communities, student-centered instruction, meaningful assessments, reflective self-study, and sustainable partnerships. The Middle Start National Center at the Academy for Educational Development provides leadership and support to regional Middle Start partnerships and school networks. For more information visit www.middlestart.org.

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