

# GLOBAL COMPASS

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Edition 3 January 2023



## New Principal Among Us

By *Breaden Peoples*

A new principal has arrived at Global Concepts High School. Tralina Middlebrooks brings over 30 years of experience from four different school districts and a history of academic success.

I found her first name to be very unique, so I asked her about the origin. “The origin of my first name, Tralina, comes from the Irish poem, ‘The Rose of Tralee,’” Middlebrooks said. “My father was Black Irish.”

Middlebrooks wanted to come to Global because of the school’s appreciation for the arts.

“My dad was very famous for being part of the Black Musicians Club. He played the sax,” she said. “I thought all the wonderful things [Global is] doing would be a segue to me... in terms of art, music and all of the wonderful things that you guys do.”

Mrs. Middlebrooks goal for Global is for teachers and administrators to help students overcome their weaknesses in the classroom.

“[We’ll be] looking at data and seeing where students are progressing,” she said. “Seeing what we need to do as an administrative team to help those kids be successful academically, as well as behaviorally, and [they can]

become well-rounded citizens when they leave Global. [We want to] teach them different ways of life and also help them find their pathways when they graduate.”

Ms. Middlebrooks wants students to have the “Gator mindset”: “Keep your head in the game, stay focused, know where you want to go, and also allow us as staff and teachers to be able to help and assist you to get there.”



## “Be Kind, Unbind Your Mind!”

—*James White*

By *Austin Miller*

Jaeona Buchanan has attended Global Concepts Charter High School for three-and-a-half years and has observed how students treat each other. The words she uses to describe the environment are “rude” and “disrespectful.”

“You’re hurting other people, but you think it’s too funny to realize [it],” she said. “Everyone takes things in a different way. You don’t know anyone’s background or what they’re going through at home, so that one little thing you say could affect them on so many different levels.”

Darius Brown is a junior at Global and a student-athlete on the basketball team. He sees conflict as an ongoing issue in the world, and school is no exception.

“Social-media-wise, people are going back and forth,” Brown said. “Also, people [are] not minding their own business about stuff that has nothing to do with them.”

Joseph Scarsella, the Global family liaison, has also witnessed student conflict. He said, “I would say it would probably be [because of] lack of communication or not having proper communication skills.”

Respect plays a crucial role in conflict resolution. Many people believe respect is earned and not given, so if someone is disrespectful, they should not expect respect in return. Ironically, this usually leads to conflict.

“It’s [about] taking responsibility and not putting responsibility on others for your emotions,” said Sydney Bradford, a counselor at Global Concepts. “Yelling isn’t going to solve anything, right? More resources are available to students when they need help.”

Bradford suggested multiple individual techniques of de-escalation, such as meditation, mindfulness, and using “I statements”—making statements about how you feel and instead of making accusations. She said “I statements” have been proven to be effective

“[I statements] lets you come at it completely from your point-of-view without it being, like, attacking,” she explains. “Making statements about how you feel...can help [people] hear how you feel without accusing someone.”

Peace is something that will work if people work together. One person cannot make peace for everybody. It is a team effort. Having a peaceful individual mindset can be helpful, but if every student created a peaceful environment together, it would be even more beneficial.

## Upcoming events

Jan 12 Alumni Slam Dunk  
Jan 16 MLK Day, no classes  
Jan 19 Caribbean Chefs Table  
Culinary Event  
Jan 20 Quarter 2 Ends  
Jan 23 Seniors Math Midterm  
Jan 24-27 Regents/Midterms  
Jan 28 Jazz Festival  
Feb 1 Student Counsel  
Candy Sale  
Feb 17 Early release and  
February Dance 7-10pm



## GLOBAL ON THE GRIDIRON

By Logan Rivera

Students at Global Concepts now have the opportunity to play football next fall, thanks to finalized negotiations between multiple charter schools to combine into one team.

The players will consist of students from Global Concepts, Health Sciences Charter School, and Buffalo Academy of Science.

“[I’m] very excited about the merger,” said Ty Parker, the head football coach of the team who also coaches Health Sciences basketball. “I’m really happy to work with Global Concepts and Buffalo Academy of Science, and I look forward to his upcoming season... I think they’ll be a big addition to what we’re trying to do.”

Parker was named the Buffalo News Coach of the Year in 2019 and has won three Section VI titles. His teams have made it to the state semifinals twice, and the last time was in

2021. Last year’s team went 5-4 and a 20-12 loss to Williamsville North in the first round of playoffs.

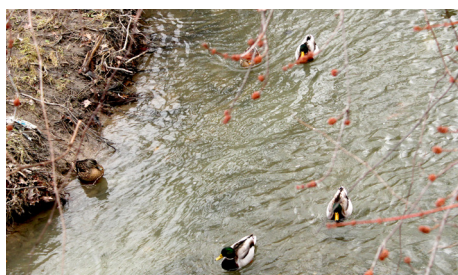
John Klein, the athletic director at Global Concepts, said this process took a long time.

“I am extremely excited to be able to provide students with the opportunity to play football as part of their high school experience beginning with the 2023-2024 school year,” said Klein. “Our students will be able to learn and train under an experienced football coaching staff as part of our combining with Health Science Charter School. I look forward to seeing our students’ individual and team success on the field.”

Principal Rob Baxter from Health Sciences believes this is an exciting opportunity for the schools involved.

“We wanted to simply give the students at the charter schools an opportunity to play sports so they don’t have to go back to the regular public schools,” Baxter said. “I think you are going to see when [these schools] take advantage of this opportunity, you are going to have a lot more people that want to come to your school just because you have football.”

Over 20 students at Global have expressed interest in playing for the team.



## ZEN ZONE

By Grey Martinez

Walking through a dark swampy forest as you peer through the thick, misty hair of a weeping willow, you catch a glimpse of a fluorescent blue gleam that quickly flicks behind a giant mossy stump. You move curi-

ously through the soft terrain as the faint aroma of wet mud, and fresh rain fills the air around you. The humid fog hugs you warmly and coats your lungs with a cool, refreshed feeling as you get to the water side. The faint glow radiates throughout the fog, yet the source never wanders beyond the stump. A bayou stands in your way, gently whisking away fallen leaves. You begin treading through the murky water while the water begins soaking its way to your knees. You fight your way through the water as its floor threatens to absorb you with every step, a slight tide rocking you back and forth.

Finally reaching the bankside, you are able to hoist yourself to the mossy surface. Rising to your feet, you are now face-to-face with the radiant husk of a tree. Moss and small mushrooms have reclaimed and encased the stump. Above the stump is a small clearing between the trees, allowing a ray of moonlight to flood in. Placing a gentle hand on the stump, you lead yourself toward the illustrious glow. You carefully step over rocks and logs in attempts to prevent scaring the light away. You attentively peer around the stump and see a small wisp of blue fire. It appears to turn around exposing a fire of soft, blue light, like eyes. You watch as it floats closer to you and makes a small arm appear. Extending the arm it touches your face softly.

You hear a soft humming in your head. A warmth fills your body. You hear a voice. “You struggled, but you’re here,” it says. “You found the light in the swamp, and in turn, the light shall follow you, protect you, and give you strength. There will always be a light for you.”

The wisp places its forehead gently against yours. It glows gloriously, wrapping you in light.

“Close your eyes, breathe, keep going.”

“Think BIG, START small,  
begin NOW”

— Stein Ove Fenne