



## Dr. Missy Rivner (Middle School)

With her focus on 21st Century Education and work with the AJA students as our current LLC Specialist, Missy brings valuable experience and perspective to her new role as the instructional leader of our Middle School.

*"I am excited to continue to help teachers innovate and collaborate in the classroom in order to prepare our students for the 21st Century skills they will need in the future. I love watching and encouraging the children to connect academically. My goal is to continue helping teachers create incredible experiences in their classrooms – where students can learn, think, problem-solve and work together."*



Missy Rivner graduated from Georgia State University with a Ph.D. in Instructional Technology and a certificate in Qualitative Research in December of 2016. She earned her Masters of Arts in Teaching at Mercer University and Bachelor of Arts in Journalism from the University of Georgia.

Dr. Rivner's dissertation, *Grounded Theory Ethnography of a Chromebook Implementation in a Bais Yaakov School*, explored what happens when an Internet-dependent technology is introduced in a setting where the Internet is not widely used. She used both thematic analysis and activity theory to analyze the data, and discovered the importance of broadening the definition of culturally-relevant teaching to include culturally-relevant technology integration.

She started her career in teaching after college as a Teach For America Corps Member in the Mississippi Delta. Since then, she has taught high school special education science, middle school language arts and fourth grade general studies. Currently, she is the Learning Commons Specialist at AJA. Dr. Rivner works with teachers in Early Childhood - 12th Grade classrooms to develop innovative learning environments that foster 21st Century learning skills.