

TIPS FOR PARENTS:

Getting Set For Middle School

Starting middle school is a big transition for both students and parents. Parent involvement in the middle grades is very important—perhaps even more that it was in elementary school! Middle school is when patterns become established in areas such as school attendance, behavior, effort, and grades.

What parents say and do about school makes a big difference in student achievement!

Five ways parents can help set students up for success:

1. Monitor Student Progress

Check your student's planner every day to know what the homework is and when tests will be. Ask to see tests and quizzes; look at your student's completed work before it is turned in.

2. Find Out About School and Grade-Level Expectations

Written standards specify the learning expectations for all core subjects at every grade level. For example, reading/literacy standards specify that every student must read at least 25 books or book equivalents each year, which means about a book per week. At open house teachers explain the course content and how it relates to the standards.

3. Get To Know Your Child's School

Know whom your child's teachers are and how to get the information you need. Most middle schools assign counselors by alphabet and/or grade level. The school office has information on after school activities and free tutoring or other academic assistance. Some schools have parent materials that can be checked out from the library. It also helps to school events and participate when possible on decision-making committees.

4. Set High Expectations for Your Student

Research has shown this is one of the most important factors in student achievement. Letting your child know you expect him or her to take school seriously and work hard has a direct impact on results.

5. Have Routines At Home That Support School

The foundation of good study habits is setting aside a daily homework time that is enforced whether or not your child says there is an assignment due. During this time no distractions are allowed—no TV and no phone! Reading yourself or doing paperwork at that time helps reinforce the study atmosphere. If your student says there is no homework, insist on using the time to review notes, textbooks, or do other reading. Always check the daily planner and ask to see completed work.



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