



Major Differences Between Elementary and Middle School

Elementary School	Middle School
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Students have one or two teachers that teach every subject, or share subjects.Students typically stay in one or two classrooms all day long.Students are given recess.Students can attend P.E. in the clothes they come to school wearing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Students have as many as six or seven different teachers and classes.Students change classrooms each hour to go to different classes.There is no recess in middle school.Students are required to change into P.E. clothes in locker rooms with their peers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Students have their own desk to keep their belongings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Students may be assigned a locker, or be expected to carry their belongings with them. They must develop organizational strategies.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Students have 30 or so minutes of homework each evening.Most elementary schools don't offer extracurricular activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Students have homework from each class, resulting in additional homework.Middle schools offer extracurricular activities including sports, clubs, choir, band, student council and many others.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Most elementary schools do not offer related arts or elective classes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Middle schools offer elective classes where students can study art, band, orchestra, choir, foreign languages, theater arts, and many more subjects.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Students walk with their classes and teacher in a line to move around the building.Schools buildings are smaller with classrooms organized in groups or pods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Students will move on their own during passing periods when changing classes and going to lunch.School buildings are larger with many classrooms organized in hallways.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">There are some clubs, but students must be supervised by an adult at all times.Students sit with their class in the cafeteria at lunch.As a fifth grader you are going to school with students younger than you.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">There are after school activities like pep rallies, dances, homework help, football games and clubs.Students may be free to choose where they sit in the cafeteria at lunch.You will enter middle school going to school with older and bigger students.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Students receive specific guidance from teachers in school work.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">School work is more challenging and includes more homework and tests.