

Organizing your Middle Schooler

One of the biggest transitions to Middle School involved learning independent organization. Having multiple teachers, changing classes, staying for a longer day, and maintaining a lock, all combined with more freedom and responsibilities contribute to organization challenges. A parent's help and attention is key to helping your child grow in this area. Here are some suggestions to guide you through this process.

Helpful Home Tips:

1. Have a specific place for your son to put his schoolbag and supplies. A hook, corner of a room, or crate serves this purpose. Be consistent that this is where his school things belong as soon as he comes home!
2. Have a specific folder, drawer, bin or bulletin board, or *something* where your son puts communications from school, papers to sign, tests to go over, notices, etc. You can then set aside a time each night to go through these and do what is necessary to deal with them. Make it your son's responsibility to put all papers for you in the designated place.
3. Make sure to check your son's TA planner. Even when you are out for the evening, you'll be able to look things over when you come home.
4. It is helpful to have a large, wall calendar where all due dates for tests/assignments may be written on it. This way, your child and you can visually see the amount of time available to divide up for an assignment.
5. An accordion type folder is helpful to have at home. You can help your child clean out his notebook periodically by putting all old papers and tests into it. You never know when you'll need them. The papers stay organized by subject; and, at the end of the year, you may throw away everything not worth saving.
6. A Sixth Grader needs his sleep. Give plenty of time for winding down, getting ready for bed, reading, etc. A 9:30 p.m. bedtime (the latest) is appropriate.
7. A Middle Schooler should be able to pack his snacks and lunch for the day. Put this into the schedule for the night before. Bring him shopping with you to help pick out the healthy snacks and food he likes. We are shocked to see student with a lunch bag that consists of multiple packages of candy, chips, soda and nothing else. Realize your child will

probably eat his lunch during his morning recess, so he needs healthy back-up food for the rest of the day.

8. Yes! Go over your child's homework and provide help when necessary. If, with prodding, your child is still not able to complete the work, contact the child's teacher with a note on the homework.

Suggestions for a Successful School Day:

1. Label all books, coats, and other personal belongings to avoid having things lost forever!
2. Our supply list is developed to help the student stay organized.
3. A TA planner will be a must, It should be used daily.
4. You may need to go through his school bag daily or weekly. Do this with him so will learn the process and be able to complete it independently.
5. Try to schedule appointments at a time least disruptive to his program. Do not tell him to leave class to meet you outside; you must call into the Middle School office to sign him out. Your son will be called out of class and meet you outside. When he returns he should sign in with the Middle School office. Your son's safety is our priority!
6. If your son will be missing school for any reason it is your responsibility to communicate with his teachers, and help him with missed work. All assignments need to be completed within the time period given by the individual teacher.
7. Feel free to communicate with the teachers and administrators. We are here to help you. Also, if things are going smoothly, feel free to just check in and let us know! 😊