

Middle Years

Working Together for School Success



Short Stops

True to you

Encourage your youngster to stay true to himself as

he meets new people. For instance, maybe he wants the approval of a popular student, but he knows that person cheats on tests or bullies younger kids. Explain that he shouldn't compromise his values, such as honesty or kindness, to fit in.

Swapping activities

Has your child been involved in a sport or club for the past few years—and now wants to switch to something different? As long as she has met her commitment, let her explore—even if you'll miss being a "baseball dad" or a "theater mom." Trying new activities helps her discover other interests, and you're likely to enjoy her new world, too.

No texting in class

If your middle grader has a cell phone or tablet, review the school's policy on electronic devices. They may not be allowed at all, or your tween might have to turn them off or leave them in his backpack or locker during class. Remind him to follow the rules, and make sure you don't text or email him during school hours.

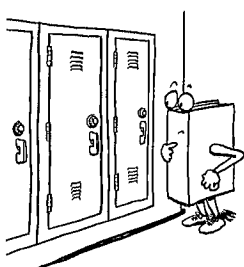
Worth quoting

"There are always flowers for those who want to see them." *Henri Matisse*

Just for fun

Q: How many books can you put in an empty locker?

A: One! After that, it's not empty!



School is priority #1

Knowing that school comes first will keep your middle grader focused on doing her best. Share these tips for making sure school remains front and center all year long.

Be there, be ready

Your child needs to be on time and in school each day. That way, she can hear lessons, participate in class discussions, and work in small groups—things she won't be able to make up outside of class. Also, she should be rested and alert by eating a healthy breakfast and getting enough sleep (9–11 hours for tweens and 8–10 hours for teens).

Keep up

Being a good student means taking assignments seriously, working hard, and finishing them on time. Encourage your youngster to stay on top of homework by writing down assignments and having a specific time and place each day to study. Also, while kids this age can be reluctant to ask for help, tell her that's something successful students do.



For instance, she might approach her teacher after class or call a friend if she's stuck on a homework assignment.

Track progress

Suggest that your middle grader regularly check her grades in each class as well as her overall grade point average. Knowing where she stands will let her set realistic goals and plan ways to reach them. If she's halfway to the next higher letter grade, for example, she could attend after-school review sessions or organize a study group for that subject. 👍

Still involved

Your tween or teen may not show it, but he still wants you involved in his schooling. Try these ideas.

Stay in touch. Sign up to receive emails from the school, parent-teacher groups, and your child's teachers, coaches, and school counselor.

Show up. Put upcoming school events on your calendar. Attending a curriculum night or field-trip information session shows your middle schooler that his education matters to you.

Help out. Look for ways to volunteer that fit your schedule, such as selling raffle tickets or serving on a parent committee. Or send in items that teachers request for their classrooms, such as paper towels, pencils, old newspapers, or empty cardboard boxes. 👍



