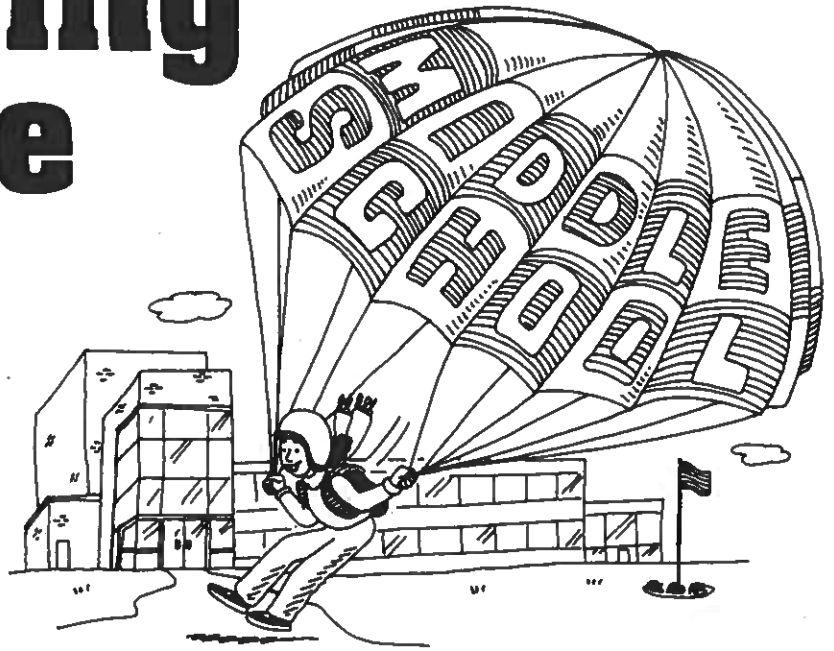


Succeeding in Middle School

The leap to middle school is a big one. But it doesn't have to be one that your child makes alone. With your guidance and the tips below, your youngster can stay organized, manage her time, and learn to study effectively. After all, doing well in middle school forms the basis for success in high school and beyond.



Routines

A new school year always brings new routines. And moving to middle school means even more changes to your youngster's daily habits. Help him get set with these suggestions.



Tame morning madness. Gym uniform, calculator, musical instrument... your child will have more things to remember each day. Suggest that he put everything in one spot (in his room or by the front door) and hang a checklist nearby to glance at before he leaves for school. *Tip:* To save time in the morning, he might eat breakfast in the cafeteria.

Switch classes smoothly. Middle school usually means a bigger building and different classrooms for each subject. To make it to every class on time, your youngster will need a routine. If he's struggling to be punctual, talk about how he can reduce trips to his locker. For example, he can take everything he needs for the first half of the day and then switch at lunchtime to what he needs for the afternoon.

Plan for homework. Encourage your child to use a student planner to keep track of his increased homework load. At the beginning of each class, he can open the planner to that day's page. He should leave it on his desk until he has written down the homework assignment and due date. At the

end of the day, he can scan the page and put everything he needs for homework (books, handouts, notebooks) in his backpack. Then, have him check off each assignment as he completes it.

Organization

Your child will need to be organized to stay on top of all the extras that middle school brings. Try these strategies.

Color-code subjects. Suggest that your middle grader come up with a system to keep track of multiple classes. One idea is to assign a different color to each subject. For instance, she could use a blue folder, notebook, and book cover for history, and green supplies for math.

Get locker ready. A well-organized locker will help your youngster quickly find what she needs. She might use a low-cost locker shelf or a sturdy box turned on its end. Or she could hang a basket on the inside of the door for holding pencils and a calculator.

Choose a homework spot. Work with your child to create a place where she can do homework and keep school supplies. She might study at a desk in her room or at the dining room table. Remind her to let you know when supplies (pencils, pens, highlighters, batteries) are running low instead of waiting until she's completely out.

