

Counselor Corner - September 2018
Granite Oaks Middle School

The Transition to Middle School: Tips for Parents

Students entering middle school are experiencing a tremendous amount of change. Just a few months ago, they had only one or two teachers. Now they may have seven or eight. Their bodies are growing and developing every day. Added to the equation are the hormones and emotions that accompany the physical changes. This all can create the perfect storm for unrest at home and at school. Although they are beginning to look like adults, middle school students still need parental and adult guidance and assistance. Here are a few homework tips for parents and caregivers as they navigate the middle school years.

Designate a Study Time and Place

Work with your student to pick a time and place where school work should be completed each day. If students do not have a homework assignment, they should read. Study areas should be as free from distractions as possible and should have available a study survival kit.

Create a Study Survival Kit

This kit should contain pens, pencils, paper scissors, and any other supplies necessary for completing assignments. Having all of these materials in one place will keep students from wasting time looking for them.

Think it Through

Before your student begins, have them make a to-do list. Example: Write a poem, read a history chapter, solve 10 math problems. Then suggest that they number the tasks, from toughest to easiest, and start with the hard stuff. This “save the easiest for last” strategy will help them finish on a high note, perhaps inspiring them to get in some extra studying.

Think About Time

Ask your student to consider different time slots they can use to get work done. For instance, maybe they could set aside a weekend morning or Sunday night. Also, some middle graders have time during Enrichment or after lunch to tackle homework. Encourage your child to complete one assignment at school each day. The more they do then, the more time they’ll have for fun later.

Think Positive

Help your middle grader see homework as a chance to prove their independence by getting their work done on time and doing it by themselves. Boost their confidence by telling them “Homework gives you a chance to show all that you know.”

Communicate, Communicate, Communicate

Communicate with your student’s teachers by phone or e-mail. Let them know to contact you if ever they have a question or concern. Encourage your student to be a self-advocate and email their teachers too. Also, communicate with your middle school student. Although they are growing up and peer relationships sometimes take a higher priority than family relationships, it is important that your student knows that you are available to talk to them and listen when they need it.

Schoology

Familiarize yourself with this great resource that helps you and your child keep track of class assignments, projects, and upcoming quizzes and tests. Encourage your child to establish a routine of checking Schoology every day.



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