

TIPS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENTS

Parent participation in education is a key factor for student success. It is important during adolescence for parents to balance student support while promoting responsibility and independence in their student.

- Become informed about your new school by attending open houses, reading school guides and student handbooks, checking parent portal and visiting school website regularly for current information.
- Consider your child's feelings. Your 6th grader may not want you joining them for lunch, but you can stay involved by joining the PTSA, volunteering at events when requested or chaperoning fieldtrips.
- Know the name of your child's team, homeroom teacher, team leader and school counselor for his/her grade. Students benefit when family and school cooperate and have a positive relationship. If you have questions or concerns, don't hesitate to call or email the school staff.
- Ask to see your child's agenda (assignment notebook with information and communications from teachers) regularly. Ask your student to **show** you his/her homework, rather than asking, "Did you do your homework?"
- Provide a specific study/homework area in your home and set expectations for your child to work on homework and long-term projects. Establish rules about TV, gaming and computer/electronic usage. Organization and time management skills must be developed so students will be prepared and not feel overwhelmed.
- Know the dress code for your school and check to see that your child is wearing "school friendly" attire daily. Be more cognizant of the need of increased personal hygiene as developmental body changes occur.
- Be aware of dates for interims, report cards, early release, teacher workdays and special activities (picture day, athletic events, EOGs, etc.)
- Be sure the school has current contact information. Provide updated information to the school's Data Manager concerning changes of address, phone numbers, email or other student information.
- Talk to your child about school and peers. Listen for comments that reflect how they are feeling and what they are thinking. Expect your child to make mistakes and have personal struggles. Give them time to think and make decisions about how to handle their problems and deal with the consequences.
- Provide opportunities for your child to develop their interests and socialize with friends, but be sure to monitor their choices. Peer acceptance and self-esteem issues become increasing important in middle school.