

## Tips for Helping Your Child Succeed in Middle School

Middle School can be a difficult transition for some students. In Elementary School, students generally have one or two teachers for their core subjects, stay in one classroom for most of the day, and see the same students in each of their classes. In Middle School, students may have a different teacher for each subject, have different students in their classes, and move from class to class. Generally, the level of accountability and responsibility they have is increased. In this transition phase, it is especially important for students to build good study habits. Parents/Guardians play a big role in this process – more than they realize. Here are some suggestions for how to help your Middle School student succeed:

1. Students have 6-7 different classes and will have homework almost daily.
2. Make sure your child is using their planner/agenda book. They should be writing down their assignments and the day they are due.
3. Set aside homework time every night in your home and make yourself available during that time, as well. If your child has a question about their assignment, they need a person there to help them figure it out.
4. Make sure there is no T.V. on or any other major distractions during the time your child is doing their homework.
5. If you don't know the answer to the question, help them figure out who/what can. Try the textbook or materials offered. Can your son/daughter go in to school early or stay after school to ask a teacher? Is there a friend they can call?
6. When studying for a quiz or test, offer to quiz them on the material. Other helpful study tips include making note cards to study off of, making a game out of the information they need to know (i.e. Jeopardy), using acronyms (i.e. HOMES stands for the Great Lakes – Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie, Superior) or making a list of important information.
7. Find out if your school offers a program to help your child if they could benefit from additional homework help.
8. Contact your child's teachers if you have specific questions about how you can better help your child at home to learn the material they are being taught in school.

With these suggestions and your child knowing you care or that school matters, your child will have a great start in developing the right tools to succeed in Middle School.