



10 Tips and Tricks for Middle School Success

Here are some tips and tricks to help your student have a successful start to 6th grade:

1. **Keep communication lines open, with both your student and the school** - 6th grade students now have 5 different teachers and classrooms to navigate. Do not hesitate to contact teachers with any difficulties your student may be having and be sure to keep talking with your student as they start pulling away a bit during middle school.
2. **Encourage your student to reach out for organizational help if needed** - Organization is key to being successful in middle school. Teachers and counselors are here to help. Encourage them to use a folder or two.
3. **Promote the idea of the school, parental units and student as all one team** - We all find common ground in wanting the best for all students. Promoting the fact of working together will help your child find success because many brains finding solutions are always better than one.
4. **Support Social Skills, Problem Solving and Kindness** - All of our students are learning to navigate social skills and problem solving with different friend groups and the complexities that come with pre-teens and teens. Support positive choices, open communication, talking things out with a trusted adult. Remember that all students are learning and working on skills at this age and it can be hard.
5. **Accept the invitation you receive to join your student's Google classrooms** - By accepting the invitation you can receive updates on assignments and announcements for each of your student's classes. You can choose how often, and how, you receive updates.
6. **Check Skyward weekly with your student** - Skyward is the place where grades and any missing assignments will be listed. Skyward is the final say of this sort of information.
7. **Encourage your student to use a planner system** - Writing assignments due dates down is vitally important for your student to keep track of what needs to be accomplished. This can be a paper planner or through the use of google calendar.
8. **Ask your student what they have covered in class each day** - By going over what they covered in class you can have those conversations about what occurred each day. You should not hear "We didn't do anything today."
9. **Encourage your student to self-advocate for themselves** - Middle School is a transitioning time between elementary school and high school. It is a safe place for students to begin to learn to let others know what they need. From asking questions of teachers when they do not understand to being able to speak up if they are experiencing any negative interactions with others, the earlier your student can learn to advocate for themselves, the more successful they will be when they move up to high school.
10. **Volunteer if possible!** - Contrary to popular belief, your student will enjoy seeing you around at school events and being a part of things. Post would love it as well!