



## TRANSITIONING FROM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO MIDDLE SCHOOL

Transition to Middle School 101 is designed to help you understand the basics of middle school and to ease students through the process of moving from elementary to middle school.

### TOP FIVE THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

**1. Middle school is SAFE!**

Students and their families are often concerned about safety as they transition from the security of elementary school to a “big and scary” middle school. Middle school staff work hard to ensure that the safety of each and every student is a priority. Most middle schools have designated 6th grade areas, lunch and passing periods, so there is little interaction with 7th and 8th grade students. As students transition into 7th and 8th grade, safety is taken no less seriously.

**2. Family involvement will be different, but is still crucial in the success of middle school students.**

Middle schools offer a number of family activities throughout the year; however, it is important for parents to realize that involvement in their child’s education may look a bit different than it did in elementary school. Parents are invited to come and visit any classroom as a Red Chair visitor. They can also stay involved by utilizing the Parent Assistant computer tool to monitor grades, and to stay on top of missing and late assignments. Participation in parent teacher conferences is still very important in middle school. Parents are also encouraged to get involved with Site Council and PTO and to volunteer for special events.

**3. Middle School teachers work in teams!**

Each student is assigned to a team of teachers that meets regularly to track student progress and discuss issues that may arise. Many parents find that the best way to communicate with teachers is to contact their teaching team during their scheduled meeting time.

**4. Time management and organization are important!**

Because students change classes many times throughout the day, they are responsible for taking their own class notes, managing their own agendas, and planning ahead to meet deadlines on projects and assignments. Don’t be surprised if grades drop slightly early in the school year, as sometimes, it takes time to figure out the best way to manage the requirements of each class.

**5. Explore possibilities with Exploratory classes!**

During 6th grade, students will be assigned to an Exploratory rotation of classes, as well as, choose an elective, depending on the middle school. Some of the classes may include physical education, technology, art, family and consumer sciences, vocal music, foreign language, drama, leadership, band and orchestra. Students will have a chance to sample and experience a wide range of subjects during 6th grade. As they transition into 7th and 8th grade, students will be able to select their Exploratory classes based on their own interests and preferences.

## SUCCEED IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

**Language Arts** – Offered at each level, starting with Language Arts 6, Language Arts 7, and Language Arts 8. Some schools give students twice as much time in Language Arts.

**Mathematics** – Offered at each level depending on placement, starting with Course 1, Course 2, Pre-Algebra, and Algebra. Some schools give students twice as much time in Mathematics.

**Science** – Each year will provide new science classes. 6th grade will focus on life science, 7th grade will focus on physical science, and 8th grade will focus on Earth science.

**Social Studies** – Offered at each level, starting with 6th grade Ancient Civilizations, 7th grade World History/Geography, and 8th grade American History.

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***“Change is like moving to a new house.  
Transition is the time it takes to make it your home.  
The transition is what needs our care and attention.”***

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RED Chair is a program offered in middle school for the families to come and sit in the classroom with their student to observe the learning environment.

## FAMILY INVOLVEMENT - DON'T STOP NOW

**Middle school is a critical time for parents to stay involved in their teenager's education.**

**FALSE** Middle school means parents can relax a little and should allow their teenager to handle their own education.

**FACT** **Your teenager needs active parent engagement NOW more than ever. And so do the teachers!**

Research shows that family engagement at the middle and high school level is different. Here are some important ways parents can help:

- Talk to your teenager about school and plans for college which will reap tremendous benefits for their future.
- Make sure your student goes to school every day and is on time.
- Join the school's Site Council or Booster Club or volunteer during special activities or events.
- Attend parent-teacher conferences. This is an important time reserved especially for you to discuss academics, goals, behavior, etc.

## ATTENDANCE

**It is VERY important to get to class on time and to show up every single day.**

When students do have to miss school, parents should report the absence to the office and the student should make arrangements with each teacher to get make-up work completed.

## EXTRA, EXTRA, READ ALL ABOUT IT

Ramp Up is a replacement course offered in Language Arts and Math for students struggling to master key foundational concepts in each area.

25 book campaign is an incentive program for all students to read 25 books throughout the year, which they are given time during Language Arts as well as expected to read at home.

Check and see if the middle school offers JROTC, AVID, Leadership, Music, or Foreign Language electives

Physical education is required during middle school.

## PARENT ASSISTANT

Parent Assistant is a web-based tool that will allow parents to review their student's attendance, assignments, grades, and more. The usernames and passwords are issued to parents and will remain the same each year. Contact the school for details and to sign up.

