

Tips to Ease Nerves

Try to discuss these things with your child and share some of your own experiences focusing on the positive:

- Getting lost and finding classes
- Fear of a new, larger school
- Merging with students from other elementary schools
- Getting to class on time
- Getting good grades
- Managing long term projects
- Reduced parental involvement
- Lack of experience in dealing with extracurricular activities
- New grading procedures
- Being bullied or teased
- Making new friends
- Having multiple teachers
- Keeping up with “materials”
- Increasing responsibility
- Carrying around all those books
- Getting through crowded halls
- No recess, less free time
- Puberty (pimples, body changes)
- Changing out for PE
- Opening Locker
- Having girlfriends/boyfriends
- Having someone to sit with at lunch
- Getting on the right bus to go home

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Successful Transition to Middle School Years



How Can I Help My Child Get Ready For Middle School?

Transition

Understand that middle school is a different environment than what your child is used to and allow your child to adjust.

Middle school is a tough time for students because the amount of changes they undergo

- Physically
- Emotionally
- Socially
- Academically

Homework

You may notice a change in homework philosophy. It is normal for middle school homework include math and reading and possibly other classes. Homework is incorporated into your child's class grade. Homework that is not turned in becomes a ZERO in the gradebook! Check your child's homework, but don't do it for them.

Organization

Teach organizational skills to your child. Kids become easily distractible and forgetful at this age with the increase in classes, homework, and activities. Use of a color coding system in the student planner may help keep track of assignments, due dates, extracurricular activities, etc.



Communication

Keep the lines of communication open between yourself and the school. Be aware of what your child is doing and how you can be involved.

Get to know the teachers.

Keep informed about your child's grades, assignments, test results, and attendance – Edsby

Your child will have more responsibility in communicating their progress with you. Talk to you about school. Saying “Tell me about something you learned today” shows your child you are interested in what happens in the classroom.