

MIDDLE SCHOOL TRANSITIONS

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines transition as a passage from one state, stage, subject, or place to another; and as a movement, development or evolution from one form, stage, or style to another. This is Middle School! Whether your child is transitioning from elementary school to middle school or from middle school to high school, your child is changing and developing not only from one place to another, but also from one developmental stage to another. Middle School is an exciting time of life that brings with it many opportunities and challenges. Students experience a great deal of growth socially, emotionally, academically, and physically, and all at different rates.

Middle school has a lot to offer your children and you may be wondering how it is different from elementary school. Basically, middle school has different classes, your own locker, new rules, a busier schedule, more homework, more teachers, more students, and more choices. And how is high school different from middle school? It has even more students and teachers, more classes, even more homework, an even busier schedule, and even more choices! Throughout middle school, we try to teach all the students to be thoughtful, responsible, and successful learners so that they can make healthy choices both in and out of school.

In order to help students and parents prepare for these important life transitions, the middle school offers different activities and events geared toward each transition. For the 6th to 7th grade transition, meetings take place at each elementary school with the 6th grade teachers, a 7th grade teacher, a guidance counselor, and the assistant principal from the middle school. These meetings usually take place in March or April and the focus of these meetings is to briefly discuss each student's academics. For 6th grade students, we schedule a visit/tour to the middle school, usually in June. These tours are lead by student council and peer leaders. This year, Bagnall will visit the middle school on June 8, Page on June 9, and Donahue on June 10. For parents, a Parent Information Night has been scheduled for May 5, 2010. In addition, the middle school guidance counselors will go to each elementary school in June for their 2nd annual Guidance Breakfast to meet with parents to talk about the role of guidance and 7th grade transition issues.

For the 8th to 9th grade transition, the high school schedules a Parent Night for incoming 9th grade parents to provide information about academic classes, schedules, and activities. This event usually takes place in November or December. Eighth grade students are given the opportunity to tour the high school, usually in January. These tours are lead by the high school class officers and guidance counselors. Finally, high school guidance counselors and students come to the middle school to meet with 8th grade students about classes, schedules, choosing electives, and the activities and clubs the high school has to offer. This usually takes place in April.

Where ever your child is at in the transition process, we are aware of their challenges and opportunities and we are here to help you guide them through it.