

Parent & Student Weekly Email

Nitschmann Middle School Weekly Update

Sunday, September 3, 2017 to Sunday, September 10, 2017

[Home of the Nitschmann Nation!](#)

Attachments to Review

For 6th Grade Girls - Girls on the Run

2017 September Middle Years Newsletter (English & Espanol)

Upcoming Dates to Be Proactive! (All dates are listed on our [NMS website](#))

9/1-11 NMS Book Fair; 9/4 No School/Labor Day; 9/7 - Back to School Night 6pm; 9/11 NMS Patriot Day (Wear Red/White/Blue); 9/11 Nitschmann Parent Group Meeting 6:30pm; 9/11 Menchie's Airport Center Dine to Donate Event - [FLYER](#); 9/11-9/17 BASD Helps Heals Houston Bracelet Sale; 9/15 School Pictures; 9/17 Constitution Day; 9/20 NIMAS meeting 7:30 PM; 9/21 School Closed - Rosh Hashanah; 10/9 No School/Teacher In-Service; 10/10-13 BASD Education Week; 10/18 NIMAS Meeting 7:30 PM; 10/21 Nazareth Parade; 10/22 Saucon Valley Parade; 10/26 Middle School Night football game; 10/27 Bethlehem City Trick or Treat 6pm; 10/29 Bethlehem Parade; 11/7 No School/Teacher In-Service/Election Day; 11/20 Fall Conferences 12pm-3pm; 11/21 Fall Conferences 5pm-8pm; 11/22-27 School Closed/Thanksgiving Break; 12/25-1/2/18 No School/Winter & Holiday Break; 1/15 No School/MLK Day; 1/24 1st Semester Ends; 2/15 Winter Conferences 5pm-8pm; 2/16 No School/Teacher In-Service; 2/19 No School/Presidents' Day; 3/29-4/2 No School/Spring & Easter Break; 4/9-13 PSSA ELA Exams; 4/16-20 PSSA Math Exams; 4/23-27 PSSA Science Exams; 5/28 No School/Memorial Day; 6/7 Last Day of School

Monday, 9/4 - No School, Labor Day

Tuesday, 9/5 Day 6

Wednesday, 9/6 Day 1

Thursday, 9/7 Day 2 - Back to School Night, 6pm Auditorium

Friday, 9/8 Day 3

Recent Nitschmann News! (Always posted on our Social Media sites too!)

Twitter [@NitschmannMS](#); Facebook [@NitschmannMiddleSchool](#); Instagram

[@BASDNitschmannMS](#); Google+ [@NitschmannMiddleSchool](#); Pinterest [@NitschmannMS](#); [NMS School Website](#) ; [YouTube](#)

Old NMS Brick Sales (Mr. Mayes) Looking for a real piece of Nitschmann history? You can purchase an original brick from the old Nitschmann! ONLINE ORDERING IS NOW ACTIVE!

<http://basdwpweb.beth.k12.pa.us/thefoundation/>

7th Grade Parents/Guardians (Hess/Miller) - Check out the amazing trip your child will be going on this fall on the Lehigh River! <https://buff.ly/2guRJCx>

BASD E-News (Dr. Roy) The September 1, 2017, edition of the BASD e-News from Dr. Roy can be viewed at <https://spark.adobe.com/page/zjt4MBqmRxjy6/>.

School-wide Announcements

NEW! AM & PM Traffic (Conley/Mayes) We have been experiencing the normal “start of year” traffic congestion, until everyone adjusts to the new traffic plan. Police enforcement will continue as needs develop. Just a few reminders from the Bethlehem Police Department - meet your child about a block away from school to leave room for everyone, do not double park or block streets (especially 10th Ave), and follow all posted signs & rules! The Bethlehem Police Department will be issuing citations & tickets.

NEW! BASD Helps Heal Houston (Mayes) Bracelets with the message "BASD Helps Heal Houston" will be available for sale starting September 11 at all BASD schools. The bracelets will be available after 9/11 at Nitschmann. The cost of the bracelets are \$3. The sale of the bracelets will be from September 11 - 19, 2017. Checks can be made out to the Freedom High School Student Council or Liberty High School Student Council.

NEW! 7th Grade Bike & Boat Trip (Hess/Miller) At the end of September and the beginning of October, each 7th grade student will be biking on the Lehigh Canal towpath and then canoeing back down the Lehigh River with the Wildlands Conservancy. More about this will be shared at Open House on Thursday and official paperwork will be sent home on Friday. Until then, here is a short video that gives you an idea of what students will be doing.
https://youtu.be/YeBsL_LuAN8

NEW! AM Arrival Weather Reminder (Mayes) Just a reminder to all students & parents that students will not come into the school before 8:05am, except in extreme weather conditions (ex. Bitter cold, sudden downpour, etc.). Students should be dressed for the weather, including umbrellas!

NEW! Nitschmann Parent Group Welcome (Coughlin) Welcome back parents! My name is Erin Coughlin and I am the Parent Group President. We have our first Bookfair starting September 5th through the 8th. I am looking for anyone that would be willing to volunteer some time to help at the bookfair. If you are interested please email me at ecogs76@gmail.com. Thanks for your time and let's make this year awesome!

NEW! Back to School Book Fair (Ellis/Coughlin) The Back to School Book Fair will run from Tuesday, September 5th- Monday, September 11th. Students are reminded to bring money for the fair on the date their Reading Class visits the fair. The schedule is as follows: 9/5: Hriniak, Rodenbach, Schultz, 9/6: Evancho, Dendrinis, Ortwein, Hackmanv9/7: Downey, Gomez, Sierra, Dugan 9/8: Danyi, Wallach, Levidis, Bartolocci. In addition, the book fair will be open during lunches each day for shopping and during Open House Night.

NEW! Family Consumer Science (Mrs. Del Priore & Mrs. Hoffman) Attention parents of 6th and 7th grade students: Your child will receive a form to submit with payment for their family and consumer science sewing project supplies in their homeroom packets. Students are expected to pay \$7 for their supplies at the beginning of the school year no matter what rotation they will have the class. We can only accept cash. If your child moves out of the district or does not participate in sewing class for some reason, your money will be refunded. Email edelpriore@basdschools.org or jhoffman@basdschools.org with questions.

NEW! Bookbags (Mayes) During the first month of school, we will be working to reduce student dependence on bookbags. In the old Nitschmann, students had to use their bookbags due to the poor condition of the old lockers. We learned that students really have never learned to use lockers, bookbags, and folders effectively because they just carry everything all of the time! In addition, there are many health benefits to not carrying around the heavy load of many textbooks all day. We will be reevaluating this decision monthly as we go through the school year.

Back to School Night (Mr. Mayes) Please plan on joining us for our Back to School Night on Thursday, September 7, 2017 at 6-8pm. You will have an opportunity to hear from your child's teachers about the plans for the upcoming school year and important information from the team.

NEW! Celebrated Puerto Rican graphic novelist comes to the Bethlehem Area Public Library, September 16th 3pm (BAPL) - Edgardo Miranda-Rodriguez is the creator of *La Borinqueña*, a new and original comic book character that has grown into a cultural phenomenon and a nationally recognized symbol of Puerto Rican patriotism, social justice, and equality for all. Miranda-Rodriguez will be speaking about his work and signing books at the Bethlehem Area Public Library (11 W. Church St) at 4pm on September 16th in an event scheduled to celebrate the beginning of National Hispanic Heritage Month. The event is free of charge and open to audiences of all ages. Miranda-Rodriguez is a well-known figure in the comic book world. He is the Art Director/Owner at Somos Arte as well as a writer at Marvel Entertainment. He is also the editor-in-chief of "Darryl Makes Comics," an independent comic book imprint launched in 2014 by Darryl McDaniels of famed hip-hop group, Run-D.M.C. *La Borinqueña* is

an Afro-Boricua woman who tackles issues rather than villains. "She doesn't fight crime, per se. She's a symbol of hope," says Miranda-Rodriguez. A book signing will follow the presentation.

Extracurricular Activities

Is your child interested in an after-school club or activity? Email the advisor for more information!

Anime Club (Advisors Mrs. Getz/Mrs. Wallach) None at this time.

Art Club (Advisors Mrs. Kozero/Mrs. Lund) None at this time.

Bandfront (Advisor Mrs. Hriniak) Congratulations on a spectacular performance at the Dedication on Thursday. You make us proud! Early morning rehearsal Thursday morning.

Artsmart @ Banana Factory (Advisor - Mrs. Nonnemacher & Mrs. Loupos) Artsmart is a wonderful free arts program held at the Banana Factory. The program is held for 8 weeks on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning Tuesday, September 26th. It runs from 3:05 P.M. to 5:45 P.M. We are able to take up to 19 students each day. Students are given some time to do homework here at Nitschmann. A bus picks them up, takes them to the Banana Factory for the classes. It then brings them back here for a parent to pick them up. If this is something your child would be interested in, have them pick up a registration form after September 6th in the library, bring it home, fill it out and return it to the library asap. Classes are filled on a first come, first serve basis.

Cheerleading (Advisor Mrs. Guerrieri) None at this time.

Strategy Club (Advisor Mr. Kehler) Strategy Club will be starting in Sept. Date and room to be announced (TBA).

German Club (Advisor TBA) None at this time

Girls on the Run Club (Advisor Mrs. Hipp/Ms. Bouhana) See attached flyer for 6th Grade girls!

French Club (Advisor Mrs. Lare) None at this time.

Intramurals (Advisor Mr. Ortwein) None at this time

History Day (Advisor Mrs. Mendez) None at this time

Lion Service Club (Advisor Mrs. McLaughlin) None at this time

Mathcounts (Advisor Ms. Novatnak) None at this time

National Junior Honor Society (Advisors Mrs. Wallach/Mrs. Lanzetta) (Twitter [@nms_njhs](https://twitter.com/nms_njhs))
Welcome back! We will have our first meeting on September 6 both before (7:45 am) and after (3:05 pm) school in room 104 to review expectations and elected positions. Please listen for announcements as well. Summer hours are due to Mrs. Wallach by September 8 but you can hand them in at any time before. See you soon:)

Nitschmann Dramatics (Advisor Mrs. Hriniak) Workshops are this week. See Mrs. Hriniak's website for the workshop schedule, information, and links to register for auditions.

Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science (PJAS) (Advisor Mr. Amen) None at this time.

Reading Olympics (Advisor - Mrs. Nonnemacher) Do you love to read and compete against other schools over the books you have read? Then Reading Olympics is for you! Reading Olympics is a reading competition held at Easton High School every Spring. We are given 45 books to read. We meet all year on a Wednesday to read, write summaries, discuss books and prep for the competition. Permission forms will be available in the library after September 7th. Have it filled out and returned to the folder in the library. We have an informational meeting on Wednesday, September 27th in the library. Reading Olympics will begin meeting weekly on Wednesday, October 18th. The Reading Olympics books for this year are already available for check out in the library. The list and books are in the small room in the back of the library. We placed first, third and seventh out of 40 schools last year and are looking forward to another fabulous year!

The Lion's Den School Store None at this time

Ski Club (Advisors Mr. Downey) None at this time

Spanish Club (Advisor Ms. Bouhana) Any student who is interested in joining Spanish Club should attend an information session next Day 1, Wednesday September 6th during activity period.

Step Team (Advisor Ms. Sierra) Returning members will be meeting in the Auxiliary gym during activity period. Tryouts for new members will be announced in October.

Student Council (Advisors Mrs. Ellis) None at this time.

Yearbook (Advisor Mrs. Ellis) None at this time

Nitschmann Parent Group (NPG) -Follow us on Twitter! [@NitschmannPG](#)

nitschmannparentgroup@gmail.com

Executive Committee

Pres. - Erin Coughlin ecogs76@gmail.com

VP - Deb Clark clark70g@msn.com

Treasurer - Rita Smith ritasmith3@rcn.com

Secretary / Volunteer Coordinator - Kimberly Marcantonio JK0359@HOTMAIL.com

PAC Representatives 2

TBA

Monthly Meetings: 9/11 6:30pm Library

Welcome back parents! My name is Erin Coughlin and I am the Parent Group President. We have our first Bookfair starting September 5th through the 8th. I am looking for anyone that would be willing to volunteer some time to help at the bookfair. If you are interested please email me at ecogs76@gmail.com. Thanks for your time and let's make this year awesome!

Nitschmann Middle School Performing Arts Department Updates

Instrumental Music

Mr. Zettlemoyer, Instrumental Music dzettlemoyer@basdschools.org

Instrumental Rehearsal Schedule

9/4 Monday - NO BAND REHEARSAL

9/5 Tuesday - Orchestra rehearsal 7:15 AM

9/6 Wednesday - Jazz Band rehearsal 7:15 AM

Day 1 Jazz band - 8:26-9:00 AM

9/7 Thursday - Band rehearsal 7:15 AM

9/1 Friday - Orchestra rehearsal 7:15 AM

Important Reminders

Tuesday, September 5 is the last day to order your KidStuff and SaveAround books. Contact Theresa Dougherty to get a book. 610-217-2481 or teresadougherty11@yahoo.com

Important Upcoming Events

(Details at www.nmsim.org)

September 5 Last day to get your KidStuff and SaveAround books
September 11 Menchie's Airport Center Dine to Donate Event - [FLYER](#)
September 20 NIMAS meeting 7:30 PM
October 18 NIMAS Meeting 7:30 PM
October 21 Nazareth Parade
October 22 Saucon Valley Parade
October 26 Middle School Night football game
October 29 Bethlehem Parade & Band picture

The Nitschmann Instrumental Music Association is now part of Amazon Smile. Now you can shop at Amazon, get great deals and support the Nitschmann Instrumental Music Association all at the same time. Log onto smile.amazon.com and select the Nitschmann Instrumental Music Association as your charity.

Choral Music

Mrs. de Vries, Choral Music Director ldevries@basdschools.org

Mrs. Parris, Choral Music Director jparris@basdschools.org

None at this time.

Academic Team Updates

Team Lafayette (6th) (Twitter [@NMSLafayette](#)) What a busy school week for Team Lafayette!! We had our first fire drill practice, we had a Code of Conduct assembly, and we had the Nitschmann Middle School dedication. Next week is our Back to School night and the Book Fair. Now that we've met the students, Team Lafayette teachers look forward to meeting parents and guardians.

Team Lehigh (6th) (Twitter [@NMSTeamLehigh](#)) Team Lehigh had a great start to the school year! We did a lot of team building activities to get to know one another and also did a school wide scavenger hunt around this incredibly large, and beautiful school. Over the long weekend, please make sure students gather any supplies they may need for their classes so that they are ready to hit the ground running on Tuesday. All signed papers, Million words, Writer's Notebook collage and email to Mrs. Oliver are also due by Tuesday. Looking forward to a great year!

Team Moravian (6th) - (Twitter [@NMSTeam Moravian](#)) we had a great first week getting to know everyone through our team building activities. Please make sure your child has his/her supplies for Tuesday as we will be starting classes this week. We look forward to seeing

everyone Thursday night at Open House! Your child will be completing a schedule this week for you to use that night.

Team Kutztown (7th) (Twitter [@TeamKutztown](#)) We are looking forward to seeing you at this week's Back-to-School Night. This week in class...**Science** (Mr. Pearson) - Students will be getting their Science textbooks at the beginning of the week and will need to get them covered. In addition, will begin discussing the safety rules for the laboratory, as well as, the names and uses for the various pieces of lab equipment. **English** (Mr. Falteich) - Grammar Unit 1 - Punctuation and Sentence Combining - -- Students will be learning skills to improve their sentence structure and composition skills. The weekly vocabulary sheet is due on Thursday, and the first quiz will be given Friday.

Team Penn State (7th) (Twitter [@NMSPennState](#)) We will be sending home a form to order a Team Penn State T-shirt that will be tie-dyed in October. Forms will be due back by Friday, September 8th with the money. The cost is \$6.00. We look forward to seeing all parents at Open House on Thursday night. This meeting is geared towards parents, so students do not need to show up. Please follow Team Penn State on social media: Team Penn State Twitter: [@NMSPennState](#) Team Penn State Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NMSTeamPennState> Team Penn State Instagram: pennstatenms Team Penn State Snapchat: NMSteamPSU

Team East Stroudsburg (8th) (Twitter [@NMSTeamESU](#)) Please follow us on Twitter [@NMSTeamESU](#) History class will be finishing the 5 C's of us. We will then discuss the 14th Amendment to the Constitution. Team ESU looks forward to seeing all parents on Thursday evening. Reading classes will continue to build background knowledge on the Civil War and read Reflection on the Civil War by Bruce Canton. ALL students must have a novel or non-fiction book by Tuesday. In math, all students will be getting textbooks and beginning Topic 1. Next week in science we will be covering elements, compounds, and mixtures in science class. There will be a full day lab as well as a bunch of mini labs. The students will be setting up Google Classroom. Setting up science notebook. What a great first week! We finished out our first week in ELA with an Escape Room Team Building Activity. Next week we begin to delve into the Writer's Notebook, Paragraph Writing, and Grammar. Remember: Your Writer's Notebook covers and corresponding writing are due the day we get back from our 3-day weekend.

Team Northampton (8th) (Twitter [@TeamSpartanNMS](#)) It was a GREAT opening week of school for Spartan Nation! Next week, History will be investigating the difference between fact and theory, while tying that into how and when the first humans arrived in North America. James L. Swanson's novel, Chasing Lincoln's Killer, is on tap in Literacy classes this week, as Mrs. Wallach begins her first unit. In ELA, students will begin a grammar unit on parts of

speech, along with generating background information on Gary Paulsen's Nighthawk. Learning the difference between elements, compounds and mixtures is the hot topic of the week in Science. Thank you to all the parents who have joined the Team Spartan Daily Email list - we are at 85%! If you would still like to join, please ask your child for the paper handed out this past week, check the bottom of the bookbag, or email Mrs. Hood at thood@basdschools.org. Please make sure ALL students have colored pencils, glue sticks and notebooks/folders so they are ready to go! We look forward to meeting many of you at Open House this week!

Team Temple (Encore) ([Blog](#)) None at this time.

Lions/Lady Lions Athletics Updates (Twitter @NMS_Athletics)

Mr. Jon Ortwein, NMS Athletic Director jortwein@basdschools.org

Cross Country

Head Coach Mrs. Schwartz, lschwartz@basdschools.org

Assistant Coach Ms. Wallace, kwallace@basdschools.org

Field Hockey

Head Coach Mr. Burzynski, bburzynski@basdschools.org

Assistant Coach Mrs. Hood, thood@basdschools.org

www.tinyurl.com/nitschmannfieldhockey

Football

Head Coach Mr. Villani, mvillani@basdschools.org

Assistants: Mike Shemanski, Sam Boyer, Joe Coryell & Angelo Fattore

Volleyball

Head Coach Mrs. Hinkel, ahinkel@basdschools.org

Assistant Coach, Mrs. Van Woert, lvannoert@basdschools.org

The Lady Lions volleyball team is looking forward to their first game at Saucon Valley on Wednesday, Sept. 6. We look forward to seeing you there!

Mr. Peter Mayes

Principal

Nitschmann Middle School

A LEAD School, partnering with The Leader in Me

"Lions Lead the Way!"

Our Collective Vision Nitschmann Middle School is committed to cultivating a respectful community of innovative learners who are socially competent citizens ready to meet the challenges of their future.

Twitter @NitschmannMS

Facebook @NitschmannMiddleSchool

Instagram @BASDNitschmannMS,

Google+ @NitschmannMiddleSchool

Web <http://basdwpweb.beth.k12.pa.us/nitschmann/>

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NITSCHMANN MIDDLE SCHOOL

WHEN: Tuesdays and Thursdays (must attend both days)
3:05-4:35pm
September 19– December 2, 2017
5k – Saturday, December 2, 2017 – DeSales University

WHERE: Nitschmann Middle School

REGISTER: Registration open 8/31/17 – 9/14/17
Direct link: <https://www.raceplanner.com/register/index/Fall17>
Website: www.gotrlehighvalley.org
Registration fee based on household income (see below)
Scholarships are available

QUESTIONS: Contact Ms. Hipp or Liz Fones, Program Manager, Girls on the Run Lehigh Valley, fonesel@diakon.org, 610-533-1141

Girls on the Run Sliding Fee Scale

Thanks to our generous sponsors and donors! Because of their support we are able to offer the program at a reduced rate of \$155 per girl – well below the actual cost per girl. Individual donations and grants help to bridge the gap between actual cost and program fee.

- We continue our mission of making the program as accessible as possible by offering financial aid to families that are not able to afford the full \$155 registration fee. Financial aid scholarships range from \$30 to \$145.

Household Income	Program Fee	Scholarship Amount Given
\$80,001 +	\$155	-
\$50,001-\$80,000	\$125	\$30
\$40,001-\$50,000	\$100	\$55
\$30,001 – \$40,000	\$75	\$80
\$20,001 – \$30,000	\$25	\$130
Under \$20,000	\$10	\$145

- *If your HH Income is such that your Program Fee is less than the full amount, please indicate that you need financial assistance when prompted during the online registration. Your fee will automatically be adjusted.*

heart & sole

What if you could challenge yourself? Try new things?
Feel strong, be strong and run strong?
Make new friends who encourage you to...

Registration
starts
August 31st!

BE *totally* YOU!

See reverse for
more details

Heart & Sole is a program from
Girls on the Run for girls in 6th-8th grade.
As a team, we'll run, laugh and connect!

Learn more and register today at

www.gotrlehighvalley.org



Presented
by:

ATHLETA

Cigna.

GAMMA PHI BETA

asics.

Middle Years

Trabajando para el éxito escolar



Notas Breves

Toma nota

Los cursos de la escuela media contienen mucha información. Su hija irá al día si toma buenas notas. Anímela a escribir los puntos clave en lugar de cada palabra, fijándose en cosas que su maestra enfatiza o repite. Tomará apuntes con más rapidez si usa taquigrafía como símbolos, abreviaturas o las primeras letras de las palabras ("&" para y, "imp" para importante).

Tiempo juntos

Sólo unos minutos al día a solas con su hijo bastan para mantenerse unidos. Piense en cómo hacer agradable ese tiempo. Pídale que le enseñe el último truco que se aprendió con el frisbee, por ejemplo, o cuénteles una anécdota divertida de su jornada.

Conozca al personal

Las secretarías y otro personal laboral desempeñan importantes papeles en el funcionamiento de la escuela de su hija y pueden ser de enorme ayuda. Salúdealas cuando vaya a la oficina y anime a su hija a que haga lo mismo. El personal se sentirá apreciado y ustedes dos se sentirán más cómodas pidiéndoles ayuda si necesitan algo.

Vale la pena citar

"El experto en algo fue un principiante una vez". *Helen Hayes*

Simplemente cómico

P: Cuando pierdes algo, ¿por qué lo encuentras siempre en el último lugar que miras?

R: ¡Porque cuando lo encuentras dejas de mirar!



En marcha para un nuevo curso

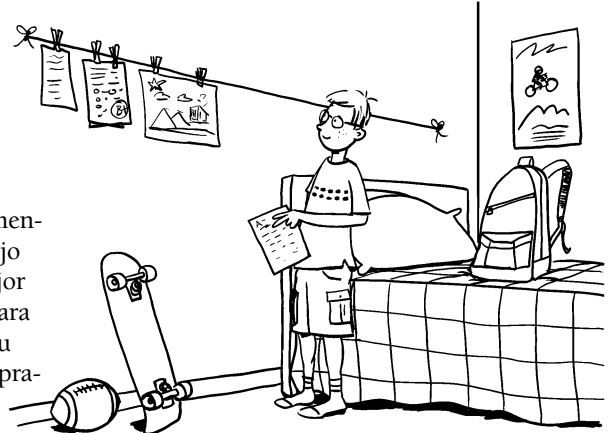
Ahora que comienza el nuevo curso escolar, anime a su hijo con estas estrategias a que se prepare para triunfar en sus estudios.

Soy fiel a mis hábitos

Sugiera a su hijo que experimente con distintos hábitos de trabajo hasta que encuentre los que mejor le vayan. Si suele ir con prisas para llegar al autobús podría poner su despertador 5 minutos más temprano, luego 10 minutos más temprano, hasta que la mañana transcurra con tranquilidad. Para sus hábitos de la tarde quizá pueda hacer los deberes después de cenar los días que tiene entrenamiento deportivo e inmediatamente después del colegio los otros días. Una vez que encuentre hábitos que le gusten dígame que los anote para que los recuerde.

Espero hacerlo lo mejor posible

Anime a su hijo a decidir qué se espera de sí mismo. ¿Dónde quiere mejorar? Podría concentrarse en prestar atención a los detalles si perdió puntos el curso pasado porque no completaba los trabajos del laboratorio. Tal vez podría hacerse un plan



para los proyectos a largo plazo a fin de no ir contra reloj en el último minuto. Sentirá satisfacción por el trabajo bien hecho cuando cumpla su plan.

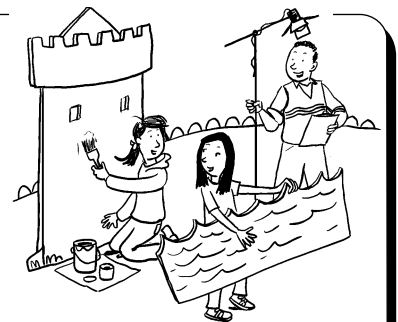
Observo mis avances

Sugíerale a su hijo que cuelgue en su dormitorio una línea del tiempo de su curso. Podría extender un cordón de una esquina a otra y usar pinzas de la ropa para colgar los trabajos o los exámenes de los que se siente orgulloso. Tal vez exhiba una redacción sobre su novela favorita o un autorretrato que dibujó en la clase de arte. Cuando vea sus avances se sentirá motivado para seguir esforzándose. 👍

Tiempo extra valioso

¿Vale la pena el tiempo dedicado a las actividades extraescolares cuando su hija tiene muchas obligaciones? Comparta con ella estas razones para que lo compruebe.

1. Conocerá a compañeros y profesores. Por ejemplo, cuando construya escenarios en el club de drama se relacionará con estudiantes que tienen intereses semejantes a los suyos. Y establecer conexiones con los consejeros del club puede llevar a formar una red de contactos para el futuro.
2. Aprenderá a establecer prioridades. Si se aproxima un concurso en su club de robótica tendrá que organizar su horario de estudio en torno a las reuniones del club.
3. Adquirir nuevas destrezas reforzará la confianza en sí misma y eso influirá positivamente en sus estudios. Jugar dobles al tenis anima a trabajar en equipo, por ejemplo, mientras que trabajar en el anuario escolar ayuda con la escritura y la revisión de textos. 👍



¿Responsabilidad? ¡Es mía!

En la escuela media los preadolescentes se enfrentan a más responsabilidades. Ayude a su hija a que entienda de qué es responsable y cómo puede cumplir con sus obligaciones.

Haz tu trabajo. Puede que los maestros no recuerden a los estudiantes de la escuela media cuándo deben terminar o entregar su trabajo. Su hija debería escribir las fechas de entrega en su agenda y colocar los proyectos ya terminados junto a la puerta de casa. Así será más probable que termine sus tareas y las lleve a la



escuela. Quizá uno de sus maestros quiera que coloque el trabajo en una bandeja. Su hija podría acostumbrarse a entregar la tarea antes de ocupar su sitio en el aula.

Haz lo que te corresponde.

Cuando otros dependen de su hija, depende de ella hacer lo que le corresponde. Para los trabajos de grupo podría reunirse con los otros miembros para trabajar y explicarles cómo va progresando su parte. Cuando se prepare para un concierto de la

banda podría ponerse objetivos para los ensayos. Así a la hora del concierto su actuación será más sólida y ella se sentirá bien porque cumplió con su parte. 🍊

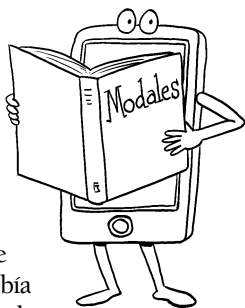
De padre a padre

Modales móviles

Estaba esperando en la fila de una tienda con mi hijo James cuando sonó su teléfono celular. Él se enfrascó en una conversación mientras la cajera procedía con su compra.

Al salir le dije a James que era de mala educación hablar por teléfono mientras le estaban atendiendo. Cuando me contestó "Lo hace todo el mundo", me di cuenta de que había llegado el momento de comentar los modales de uso del celular. Le dije que la gente suele hablar alto en sus teléfonos, molestando a los demás y convirtiendo en pública una conversación privada.

James me dijo que nunca había pensado en ello. Accedió a poner su teléfono en vibración cuando salgamos para devolver luego la llamada. Mi hijo no puede imaginarse cómo era crecer sin celulares. Pero yo estoy intentando que entienda que, aunque los tengamos, no es necesario que los usemos constantemente y que los buenos modales son indispensables. 🍊



Leer para relajarse

Leer por placer puede contribuir a que su hijo se relaje, con la ventaja añadida de que además reforzará las destrezas de lectura. Sugírela estas dos ideas para estimular la lectura por placer.

1. Ve a una "cita a ciegas"

Su hijo puede cambiarse libros con sus amigos de esta interesante forma: Cada persona envuelve una novela en papel y escribe o dibuja pistas sobre ella. Los participantes se juntan y seleccionan un libro basándose en las pistas. Luego lo abren para descubrir con qué libro tienen una "cita".

2. Jueguen a bingo de lectura

Que su hijo convierta la lectura en un juego haciendo un cartón de bingo en un trozo de cartulina dura. En cada recuadro su hijo debe escribir una categoría de lectura como misterio, ciencia ficción, novela gráfica, poesía y autobiografía. Cuando lea cada tipo escribe una X en el recuadro correspondiente. ¿Cuánto tarda en completar una fila? ¿Y todo el cartón de bingo? 🍊



P & R

En el mismo equipo

P Mi hija mayor acaba de empezar la escuela media. Como ahora tiene un maestro distinto para cada asignatura, ¿cómo puedo formar equipo con todos ellos?

R Para relacionar cada rostro con su nombre, procure acudir pronto a un evento como una jornada de puertas abiertas o una noche dedicada al currículum. También podría escribir un breve mensaje presentándose, copiando y pegándolo en un correo electrónico para cada maestro.



Haga lo que haga, déjeles claro que usted quiere contribuir al triunfo de su hija en los estudios y pregúnteles qué puede hacer en casa para apoyarla. Pregúnteles también a los maestros cómo quieren que se comunique con ellos (por correo electrónico, por teléfono, con una nota). Finalmente averigüe si quieren

que su hija acuda directamente a ellos antes de que usted contacte con ellos. Una maestra de la escuela media puede preferir que una estudiante dé el primer paso si necesita ayuda o tiene una pregunta. 🍊

NUESTRA FINALIDAD

Proporcionar a los padres ideas prácticas que promuevan el éxito escolar, la participación de los padres y un mejor entendimiento entre padres e hijos.

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Middle Years

Working Together for School Success



Short Stops

On that note

Middle school courses cover a lot of ground.

Taking good notes will help your child keep up. Encourage her to write down key points instead of every word, noticing items the teacher emphasizes or repeats. Also, note taking will go faster if she uses shorthand like symbols, abbreviations, or the first letters of words (“&” for *and*, “imp” for *important*).

Together time

Spending even a few minutes one-on-one with your middle grader each day will help you stay connected. Look for ways to make the time enjoyable. Invite him to show you how to do his latest Frisbee trick, for example, or tell him a funny story from your day.

Meet the staff

Secretaries and other staff play huge roles in running your tween’s school—and they can be a terrific resource. Say hello when you’re in the office, and encourage your child to do the same. The staff will feel appreciated, and you’ll both feel more comfortable asking for help if you need something.

Worth quoting

“The expert at anything was once a beginner.” *Helen Hayes*

Just for fun

Q: When you lose something, why is it always in the last place you look?

A: Because when you find it, you stop looking!



In gear for a new year

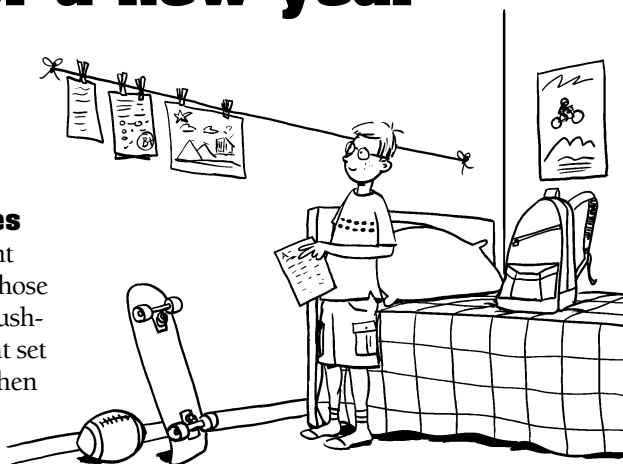
As the new school year gets under way, encourage your middle grader to set himself up for success with these strategies.

Sticking to my routines

Let your tween experiment with routines until he finds those that work best. If he’s often rushing to catch the bus, he might set his alarm 5 minutes earlier, then 10 minutes earlier, until his mornings go smoothly. For his evening routine, perhaps he’ll do homework after dinner on days he has sports practices and right after school on other days. Once he has routines he likes, have him write them down so he’ll remember them.

Expecting my best

Encourage your child to decide what he expects from himself. Where does he want to improve? He might focus on paying attention to detail if he lost points last year by not filling out science lab reports thoroughly. Or maybe he’ll create a plan for spreading out long-term projects so



he’s not scrambling at the last minute. He’ll gain satisfaction from a job well done when he follows through.

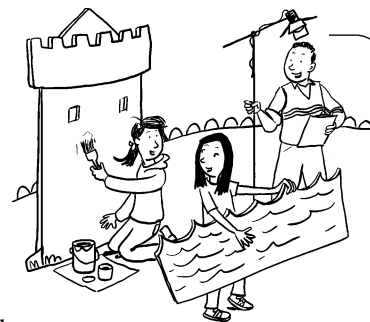
Watching my progress

Suggest that your middle grader hang a school year “timeline” in his bedroom. He could string yarn from one corner to another and use clothespins to clip on assignments or tests he’s proud of. Perhaps he’ll display an essay on a favorite novel or a self-portrait he drew in art. Seeing his progress can motivate him to keep working hard. 👍

Extra worth it

Are extracurricular activities worth the time when your tween has a lot on her plate? Share these reasons for giving them a try.

1. She’ll get to know classmates and teachers. As she builds sets in drama club, for example, she’ll bond with peers who have similar interests. And forming connections with club advisers can lead to networking for the future.
2. She’ll learn to set priorities. If her robotics club has a competition coming up, she’ll have to organize her study schedule around team meetings.
3. Gaining new skills will boost her confidence—and translate into school success. Playing doubles tennis encourages teamwork, for instance, while working on the yearbook helps with writing and editing. 👍



Responsibility? It's all mine!

Tweens take on more responsibility in middle school. Help your child understand what she's responsible for now—and how she can meet her obligations.

Do your work. Teachers might not remind middle graders when homework is due or to hand it in. Your tween should write due dates in her planner and put completed projects by the front door. That way, she will be more likely to complete assignments and take them to school.



Or perhaps a teacher wants finished work placed in a tray. Your child might get in the habit of not sitting down until hers is turned in.

Do your part. When others depend on your tween, it's up to her to do her part. For group projects, she could meet with members to get work done and let them know how her section is coming along. To prepare for a band concert, she may set goals for her practice sessions. Then, at concert time, her performance will be stronger, and she'll feel good about holding up her end. 🍷

Parent to Parent

Mobile manners

I was in line with my son James at the store when his cell phone rang. He proceeded to carry on a conversation while the cashier rang up his purchase.

After we left, I told James it was rude to talk on his phone while he was being waited on. When he said, "Everyone does it," I knew it was a good time to discuss cell phone manners. I said people tend to talk loudly on their phones, disturbing others and turning private conversations into public ones.



James said he hadn't thought about it that way. He agreed to put his phone on vibrate when we're out and to return calls later. My son can't imagine what it was like growing up without cell phones. But I'm trying to help him understand that just because we have them, we don't need to use them all the time—and that good manners still apply. 🍷

OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

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Read to relax

Reading for pleasure can help your middle grader unwind—and has the added benefit of boosting reading skills along the way. Suggest these two ideas to encourage reading for fun.

1. Go on a "blind date"

Your child could swap books with friends using this interesting twist: Each person wraps a novel in paper and writes or draws clues about it. Everyone gets together and selects a book based on the clues. Then, they open it to reveal what book they have a "date" with.

2. Play reading bingo

Let your tween turn reading into a game by making a bingo card on a sheet of cardboard. In each box, have him write a reading category, such as mystery, science fiction, graphic novel, poetry, and autobiography. As he reads each type, he should X out a matching square. How quickly will he cross out a row? How about the whole bingo board? 🍷



On the same team

Q My oldest child just started middle school. Now that she has different teachers for each subject, how can I partner with all of them?

A To put faces with names, try attending an upcoming event to meet them, such as an open house or a curriculum night. You could also introduce yourself by writing a short message and copying and pasting it into an email for each teacher.



Either way, let them know you want to help your tween succeed, and ask what you can do to support her at home. Also, ask the teachers how they want to be approached (email, phone call, note).

Finally, find out if they want your child to come to them directly before you contact them. A middle school teacher may prefer that a student take the first step if she needs help or has a question. 🍷