

**Parent & Student Weekly Email**  
**Nitschmann Middle School Weekly Update**  
**Sunday, November 26, 2017 to Sunday, December 3, 2017**

[Home of the Nitschmann Nation!](#)

All of this information can be downloaded at our [Nitschmann Middle School Website!](#)

Stay on top of your child's grades & attendance at [BASD Parent Portal](#)

**Attachments to Review**

December Middle Years Newsletter

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

*11/22-27 School Closed/Thanksgiving Break; 12/6 Education Day @ LU 6th Grade; 12/7 Winter Band/Orchestra Concert; 12/8 Elf Dance; 12/11 NPG Meeting with Dr. Roy; 12/19 Winter Vocal Music Concert; 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, 11/27 No School, School Closed**

**Tuesday, 11/28 Day 5**

**Wednesday, 11/29 Day 6**

**Thursday, 11/30 Day 1**

**Friday, 12/1 Day 2**

**Saturday, 12/2**

**Sunday, 12/3**

**\*All athletic events are listed at the bottom of this email \***

**PE/Health Schedule**

Wallace and Villani- Gym until 11/29

Wills- Health until 11/29

**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](#)

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**School-wide Announcements**

**BASD E-News (Dr. Roy)** The November 21, edition of the BASD e-News from Dr. Roy is available for you to view at [November 21, 2017 edition of the BASD e-News](#).

**Fall Student Conference Make-Ups (Mayes)** Students who did not complete their conferences prior to the holiday will receive directions in homeroom this week on how to complete them in the next week.

**Student Council Gift Card Fundraiser (Ellis)** - is holding a gift card fundraiser and selling gift cards. There are 100's of gift cards to choose from. Let us make your holiday shopping a little easier by ordering gift cards through our school. Order forms will be distributed to students next week. ALL ORDERS MUST BE TURNED IN BY FRIDAY, 12/1, so that we can ensure delivery by our holiday break.

**NEW! Holiday Gift Tree (Ellis)** - The Student Council has adopted the "Holiday Giving Tree" as its community service project. The "Holiday Giving Tree" is decorated with ornaments (tags) that identify the age, gender, and a holiday wish list for local children in need. If you choose to participate, return the attached permission slip to Mrs. Ellis or Mr. Kocon in the library and select an ornament (tag) from the Giving Tree located in the NMS library. The tree will be located outside the Book Fair in the Large Group Room on the ground level during conferences. The ornaments will be available beginning November 21st. Purchase a gift or gifts from the items listed on the tag, wrap it (please secure multiple boxes together with ribbon or place all of them in a bag), TAPE THE TAG TO THE OUTSIDE OF THE PACKAGING, and return the wrapped and identified gift to the tree in the Main Lobby no later than December 14th.

**Nitschmann Parent Group (NPG) -Follow us on Twitter! [@NitschmannPG](https://twitter.com/NitschmannPG)  
[nitschmannparentgroup@gmail.com](mailto:nitschmannparentgroup@gmail.com)**

**Executive Committee**

Pres. - Erin Coughlin [ecogs76@gmail.com](mailto:ecogs76@gmail.com)

VP - Deb Clark [clark70g@msn.com](mailto:clark70g@msn.com)

Treasurer -

Secretary / Volunteer Coordinator - Kimberly Marcantonio [JK0359@HOTMAIL.com](mailto:JK0359@HOTMAIL.com)

**PAC Representatives**

- 1) Amy Wuertele
- 2) Kimberly Marcantonio
- 3) Therese Gyauch

**Box Tops!** Please send any box tops with your child to school!

**NPG Meeting with Dr. Roy (Coughlin)** Just a reminder Dr. Roy will meet with our NPG on Monday, December 11, 2017 @ 6:30pm.

**Academic Team Updates**

**Team Lafayette (6th)** (Twitter [@NMSLafayette](https://twitter.com/NMSLafayette)) Team Lafayette students are ready for their Student Led Conferences to be held on Monday, 11/20 and Tuesday, 11/21. Please sign up online for a conference if you haven't yet signed up. In math, students are learning absolute value and co-ordinate grids. Students are working on the Beginnings of Human Society in social

studies, and in science they rotated through labs to become more familiar with lab equipment and safety. Next week all Nitschmann students will finish the school day at 11:30 on Monday and Tuesday. Lafayette teachers hope you have a great Thanksgiving holiday!

**Team Lehigh** (6th) (Twitter [@NMSTeamLehigh](#)) Welcome back! This week we will begin our Holidays around the world projects in ELA. Please touch base with your child as they receive their country and their expectations. Thank you to those that have donated towards our science volcano experiment.

**Team Moravian** (6th) - (Twitter [@NMSTeam Moravian](#)) Looking forward to seeing everyone at Student Led Conferences this week. Be sure to bring your child with you for these meetings, as they have worked very hard to prepare to lead the conference. We would like to wish you a happy and healthy Thanksgiving filled with family and friends! We hope you are able to relax and enjoy your time together.

**Team Kutztown** (7th) (Twitter [@TeamKutztown](#)) The students have been busy setting goals, identifying their academic strengths and weaknesses, and putting together portfolios for their student-led conferences..They are ready! Thank you to all parents who have signed up for a student-led conference. Tuesday is the last day for the **Thanksgiving Food Drive**. Please keep the canned goods and donations for turkeys coming. **Science** (Mr. Pearson) - For the next two weeks, students will continue to learn about how scientists solve problems using the scientific method. We will specifically be focusing on how to write a hypothesis, design an experiment, and organize and analyze data. **English** - All students have Vocabulary Lesson 8 (definitions and sentences) due on Monday. The quiz for lesson 8 will be on Tuesday.

**Team Penn State** (7th) (Twitter [@NMSPennState](#)) Students have been preparing their folders to share at conferences. We look forward to seeing everyone's parents at conferences. Please plan to visit the holiday extravaganza and book fair if you are attending Tuesday evening conferences. Math: 8th Period has their Unit 3 test on Monday. On Tuesday we will have a team breakfast and celebration. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

**Team East Stroudsburg** (8th) (Twitter [@NMSTeamESU](#)) History classes will be mythbusting Thanksgiving and working on hand turkeys. Students should share facts at Thanksgiving. Reading classes will continue building background on World War 1 in preparation for our next unit based on the WWII novel Soldier X.

**Team Northampton** (8th) (Twitter [@TeamSpartanNMS](#)) None at this time.

**Team Temple** (Encore) ([Blog](#))

**Counseling Corner** (Kehler, Litak, Hipp) None at this time.

**Student Services Updates** (Wagner) None at this time.

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## **Extracurricular Activities**

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

**AM Basketball** (Off. Conley) None at this time.

**Anime Club** (Advisors Mrs. Fehr/Mrs. Wallach) Our next club meeting is on December 18 in room 104. Bring your sketches and bookmarks.

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

**Bandfront** (Advisor Mrs. Hriniak) Thank you to everyone who performed on Friday for #SantaAtTheSands ! Send your pictures to Mr. Z or share them on Twitter #SantaAtTheSands. Regular rehearsal Thursday morning.

**Artsmart @ Banana Factory** (Advisor ) - It has been a great 8 weeks! The Thursday class finished this past Thursday. Those who did not get their art pieces will have them delivered to the school in the next few weeks. The Tuesday class will finish on Tuesday, November 28, due to no school on election day and a half day on Nov. 21st.

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

**Dance Team** (Advisor Ms. Sierra) No school practice- practice at home.

**German Club** (Advisor TBA) None at this time

**Heart & Sole Club** (Advisor Mrs. Hipp/Ms. Bouhana) The 5K race is December 2nd at 9:30 am. All Nitschmann Staff and community is welcome to come cheer on the girls.

**FCS/DIY Club (Advisors Mrs. Del Priore & Mrs. Hoffman)** None at this time.

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

**Intramurals** (Advisor Mr. Ortwein) None at this time

**Intro to Breakdancing (City of Bethlehem)** The City of Bethlehem is starting a new afterschool club at Nitschmann for students for an Introduction to Breakdancing. Dates & Times to be announced. Numbers limited to 15 students. Link to Register if Interested:

<https://goo.gl/forms/LiKmwTIwr3UW4ryn1>

**Lion Service Club** (Advisor Mrs. McLaughlin) If you're interested in giving back and doing for others, then consider joining the Lion Service Club. We will accomplish these things by organizing donation drives, making crafts, etc. See Mrs. McLaughlin in room 209 for an information and permission sheet.

**Mathcounts** (Advisor Ms. Novatnak) None at this time.

**National Junior Honor Society** (Advisors Mrs. Wallach/Mrs. Lanzetta) (Twitter-@Njhs\_Nistchmann; Instagram- @Njhs\_Nistchmann ) Our next meeting will take place on December 6 before and after school. Members must attend one of these meetings.

**Nitschmann Dramatics** (Advisor Mrs. Hriniak) Rehearsals are now until 5:00 unless otherwise specified! Tuesday Crew, Wednesday Principal Characters/Understudies, Thursday Principal Characters/Understudies, Friday All Cast.

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

**Reading Olympics** (Advisor - Mrs. Nonnemacher) None at this time.

**Recreation Games Club (City of Bethlehem)** The City of Bethlehem is starting a new afterschool club at Nitschmann for students on Monday & Thursdays, starting on November 6th. Students should please enter the information below if you are interested in participating in a recreational game club after school. These will be playground-style games, played indoors in the Auxiliary Gym from 3:10pm-4:10pm. We will group later this week to start next Monday, November 6. Groups will be limited under 20 students per session and will run until the Spring of 2018. Link to Register: <https://goo.gl/forms/KA0BhIPWaStORW9n1>

**The Lion's Den School Store** (Advisors Mr. Dendrinis & Mrs. Evancho) After break, The Lion's Den will be open on Day 1 during team time in addition to the regular Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings it has been open. Please see Nitschmann's Facebook page for examples of the gear that can be found in the store. Prices: Sweatshirts \$20; Long sleeve T-shirt \$15; Short sleeve T-shirt \$10; Sweatpants \$15

**Ski Club** (Advisors Mr. Downey) Our first meeting is scheduled for January 8. You can sign up for updates by texting @skiclubni to 81010

**Spanish Club** (Advisor Ms. Bouhana) Spanish Class cash wars will begin after we return from Thanksgiving break. The class that donates the most will win a pizza and movie party.

**Step Team** (Advisor Ms. Sierra) None at this time.

**Strategy Club** (Advisor Mr. Kehler) None at this time.

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

**Yearbook** (Advisor Mrs. Ellis) None at this time

**Nitschmann Middle School Performing Arts Department Updates**  
[Instrumental Music](#)

Mr. Zettlemoyer, Instrumental Music [dzettlemoyer@basdschools.org](mailto:dzettlemoyer@basdschools.org)

## Instrumental Rehearsal Schedule

### Important Reminders

- **Second Spring Trip payment WAS due November 15 - [Details](#)**
- November 21 Holiday flower orders are due - **White glitter is a red flower that is speckled white , Marble is a pink flower with a white edge.**
- **November 24 Sands Outlets performance Report 10:45 AM**
- **December 6 2nd NYC trip payment is due - \$50.00**
- December 7 Winter Orchestra & Jazz Concert - Tickets are \$3.00
- December 11 Barnes & Noble Book Fair Night ( Woodwind, Brass and String Small ensembles)
- December 20 Jazz Performance at LVIA 8:00 AM
- November school lessons schedule. The lesson schedule can be found here: <http://www.nmsim.org/lessons/>

### Important Upcoming Events

(Details at [www.nmsim.org](http://www.nmsim.org))

December 6 - 2nd NYC trip payment is due

December 7 - Winter Orchestra & Jazz Concert

December 11 - Barnes & Noble Book Fair

December 20 - Jazz Performance at LVIA 8:00 AM

The Nitschmann Instrumental Music Association is a part of Amazon Smile. 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](http://smile.amazon.com) and select the Nitschmann Instrumental Music Association as your charity.

### Choral Music

Mrs. de Vries, Choral Music Director [ldevries@basdschools.org](mailto:ldevries@basdschools.org)

Mrs. Parris, Choral Music Director [jparris@basdschools.org](mailto:jparris@basdschools.org)

December 13-Choral ensembles perform for Nitschmann student body. Dress TBA

December 14-

9:00 AM Glee club walks to B. Braun to perform

3:05-7:00 PM Nitschmann Singers rehearsal, pizza dinner, then sing with Calypso and Marvinne students at their concert in the Nitschmann auditorium. Dress TBA

December 18-(tentative) 5:30-7:00 PM Caroling for Nitschmann friends and neighbors.

Volunteers needed to walk with us/ Houses needed for us to perform for

December 19-Nitschmann Choral Concert at 7:00 PM. Arrive in choral room at 6:15 PM. Concert dress-black pants (no jeans or leggings) and plain white shirt. (Nitschmann Singers must have a collar.) Friends and family pay \$3 at the door. Volunteers needed to collect money and hand out programs.

December 20-3:05-4:00 PM Glee Club party in Nitschmann cafeteria. Volunteers needed to help set up, serve and clean up.

This week Glee Club "sharps" (experienced member buddies) must write an anonymous letter to their "flat" (new member buddy) and deliver it by Wednesday. Sharps and flats will exchange gifts at the concert on December 19. \$10 limit.

**Lions/Lady Lions Athletics Updates** (Twitter @NMS\_Athletics)  
Mr. Jon Ortwein, NMS Athletic Director [jortwein@basdschools.org](mailto:jortwein@basdschools.org)

**Boys Nitschmann Basketball, Interscholastic**  
Head Coach Mr. Wills, [jwills@basdschools.org](mailto:jwills@basdschools.org)  
Tryouts for Boys and Girls Basketball will begin Friday. 11/17.

**Girls Nitschmann Basketball, Interscholastic**  
Head Coach Mr. Ortwein, [jortwein@basdschools.org](mailto:jortwein@basdschools.org)  
Tryouts for Boys and Girls Basketball will begin Friday. 11/17.

**Boys Liberty HS Freshman Wrestling**  
Head Coach Mr. Veras, [msveras@gmail.com](mailto:msveras@gmail.com)

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*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/>*

*1002 West Union Blvd*  
*Bethlehem, Pa 18018*

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# Middle Years

Working Together for School Success



## Short Stops

### Appreciate art

Visit an art museum or gallery over winter break for educational family fun. Encourage your tween to read descriptions of the exhibits. He'll learn about artists and their techniques. He may even want to try his hand at some artwork when you get home! *Note:* Check for free-admission days or holiday coupons.

### On top of grades

If your child's school offers an online grade book, check it every week or so. That way, you will stay in the loop and can spot problems early. Try not to overreact to one low score—it could be one small blip or just a tiny fraction of your tween's grade. Instead, look for patterns, and contact the teacher if you have concerns.

### Excited about tweens

It's normal to feel a bit sad as your middle grader grows up. But it helps to remember that you have a lot to look forward to. You may discover mutual interests and enjoy discussing various topics as her opinions develop. Plus, you get to witness the excitement of her first school dance, volleyball game, or other milestone events.

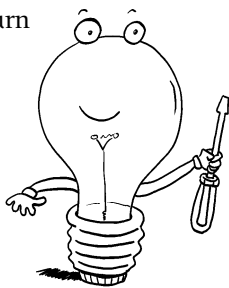
### Worth quoting

"A hunch is creativity trying to tell you something." *Frank Capra*

### Just for fun

**Q:** How do you turn on the light in a room with a broken light switch?

**A:** By fixing it!



## Be productive!

Homework? Check. Take pictures for photography class? Check. Do the dishes? Check.

Knowing what to do and getting it done will make your tween's life run more smoothly *and* help her be more successful. Share these four strategies.



### 1. Pick what's important

Suggest that your child make a daily to-do list—with priorities. She might divide her list into what must be done today and what can wait until the next day. *A good tip:* Encourage her to keep her list manageable. Writing down everything she needs to do all month may just lead to frustration.

### 2. Use "prime time"

Maybe your tween is a morning person and concentrates better then. If so, she could review for tests on the bus or do projects on weekend mornings. If she's more alert after school or at night, however, she can focus her energies then.

### 3. Snap into a positive mood

If your middle schooler isn't feeling motivated, encourage her to do something that puts her in a good mood. She might watch birds at the bird feeder, take a walk around the block, or play with slime. Changing her frame of mind can help her get started.

### 4. Put away distractions

While technology is supposed to help us be productive, it often gets in the way. Have your child place any devices she's not using for homework across the room and shut off. (After all, it's easier to procrastinate with a video if her tablet is powered on and within reach!) 👍

## Operation "reset"

Winter break gives your child the gift of extra time. Encourage him to use it wisely with a mix of relaxation and preparation for the new year.

**Refresh.** Suggest he do enjoyable activities he hasn't had time for. Perhaps he'll read a graphic novel that's been sitting on a shelf or create a workout routine to do with a friend.

**Catch up.** Ask your tween to think about how he can hit the ground running next semester. If he has assignments due when school begins, he could work on them a little each day. Or he might empty his subject folders by filing returned papers at home and start with a fresh slate in January. 👍



# Writing for the real world

As your tween grows up, he'll need to write for all kinds of reasons, whether he's drafting papers for school, writing college essays, or preparing a resume. He can practice by writing for real purposes at home.

**Summarize the facts.** Writers need to get to the point quickly, because there's so much information competing for people's attention. For practice, your child could write a newscast recapping 2017 family highlights and



send it to relatives. To sum up each event, he should focus on key facts like who, what, when, where, and why. ("Maggie, age 10, joined the Safety Patrol in September at Beacon Elementary School.")

**Target your audience.** Focusing on who will read his writing helps him make sure it is understandable and includes relevant details. For instance, a student's version of a textbook contains different information than a teacher's. To understand the

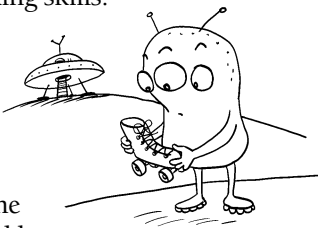
difference, your middle grader might create a "how-to" guide for different groups. For example, he could write step-by-step directions for using a remote control, but make one for tech-savvy family members and one for those who aren't. 👍



## Nice thinking!

Becoming a good thinker will help your middle grader solve problems and make daily decisions. Use these fun family activities to grow her creative and critical thinking skills:

■ If an alien came to Earth and found a roller skate, what might he think it could be used for? Take turns calling out answers. For example, your child may say the wheels would make a good back massager. Continue until no one can think of a new answer.



■ Secretly think of an object, and imagine you are holding it. "Pass" it to another person, who tries to guess your item based on how you handle it. For example, how would you hold and pass an ice cube, a bowling ball, a hot potato, or a Frisbee? After guessing, the catcher pretends it's something different and passes it to the next family member. 👍

### OUR PURPOSE

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

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### Q & A

## Handling friendship changes

**Q** My son no longer wants to hang out with one of his new friends, but he doesn't want to hurt the boy's feelings. What advice can I give him?

**A** It's common for middle graders to try out new friendships—and just as common for one or both to decide it doesn't work. Let your son know it's okay as long as he's kind about it.

If the other boy invites him to do something, he should respond rather than ignore him and politely decline without a long explanation ("Sorry, I can't").

Also, suggest that he avoid committing to hang out later, so the boy doesn't get the wrong impression that your son wants to get together in the future.

When they see each other at school or events, he should say hello. That can prevent hard feelings and leave the door open for being better friends again later. 👍



### Parent to Parent

## No price tag on giving

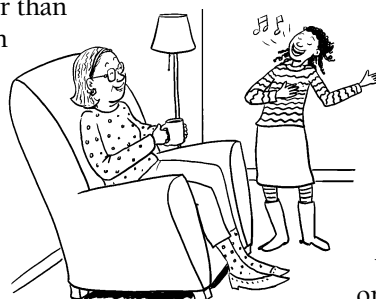
My 12-year-old daughter, Katie, always wants to give presents at the holidays, but she doesn't have much money. This year, I suggested she think about what could she *do* for people rather than what she could wrap in a box or bag.

We brainstormed, and I was surprised by where our ideas led. Since Katie likes to sing, she thought of serenading her grandmother with

her favorite song from the 1950s. I suggested she offer her younger brother a "chore-free day," letting him pick a day for her to take over his chores.

Then, she decided to give her favorite teacher a handmade card with an offer to help around the classroom.

It's good for Katie to see that she can be generous without spending money. And I'm hoping that focusing on giving will keep her less focused on getting. 👍



# Middle Years

Trabajando para el éxito escolar



## Notas Breves

### Valorar el arte

Visiten un museo o una galería de arte durante las vacaciones de invierno para pasarlo bien educativamente en familia. Anime a su hijo a que lea las descripciones de las exposiciones. Aprenderá sobre los artistas y sus técnicas. ¡Quizá quiera también intentar hacer su propia creación artística cuando vuelvan a casa!

*Nota:* Busquen días de admisión gratuita o cupones para las fiestas.

### Atentos a las notas

Si la escuela de su hija tiene un libro de calificaciones en la red, consúltelo cada semana. Así estarán informados y podrán identificar pronto los problemas. Procuren no reaccionar desproporcionadamente por una nota baja: podría tratarse solamente de un bache o suponer una fracción minúscula de la nota de su hija. Identifiquen, en cambio, tendencias y contacten con la maestra si les preocupan.

### Entusiasmados con los preadolescentes

Es normal sentir un poco de tristeza porque su hija se va haciendo mayor. Pero es útil recordar que a usted le esperan muchas cosas buenas. Quizá descubran intereses comunes y disfruten comentando diversos temas según vaya desarrollando sus propias opiniones. Además presenciara la emoción de su primer baile en la escuela, partido de voleibol u otros eventos importantes en la escuela.

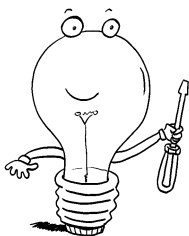
### Vale la pena citar

“Una corazonada es la creatividad que intenta decirte algo”. *Frank Capra*

### Simplemente cómico

**P:** ¿Cómo prendes la luz de una habitación que tiene el interruptor roto?

**R:** ¡Arreglándolo!



## ¡Sé productiva!

¿Deberes? Hechos. ¿Las fotos para la clase de fotografía? Hechas. ¿Los platos? Hechos.

Saber qué tiene que hacer y hacerlo hará que la vida de su hija transcurra con más tranquilidad y la hará más competente. Comparta con ella estas cuatro estrategias.



### 1. Elige lo que es importante

Sugíerale a su hija que haga una lista diaria de obligaciones estableciendo prioridades. Podría dividir su lista en lo que hay que hacer hoy y lo que puede esperar hasta el día siguiente. *Un buen consejo:* Anímela a que haga una lista manejable. Escribir todo lo que tiene que hacer durante el mes puede producirle frustración.

### 2. Usa el mejor momento

Puede que su hija sea madrugadora y se concentre mejor por la mañana. Podría repasar para los exámenes en el autobús o hacer proyectos las mañanas del fin de semana. Pero si está más despierta después de la escuela o por la noche podría concentrar sus energías en esos momentos.

### 3. Ponte de buen humor

Si su hija no se siente motivada, anímela a hacer algo que la ponga de buen humor. Podría observar los pájaros que vienen a comer, dar un paseo por su bloque o jugar con engrudo. Cambiar su estado de ánimo le ayudará a conseguirlo.

### 4. Retira las distracciones

Aunque se supone que la tecnología nos ayuda a ser productivos, con frecuencia se entromete. Dígale a su hija que apague los aparatos que no está usando para los deberes y los coloque al otro lado de la habitación. (¡Lo cierto es que es más fácil ver un video y dejar algo para más tarde cuando la tableta está encendida y al alcance de la mano!) 👍

## Operación “reiniciar”

Las vacaciones de invierno le dan a su hijo tiempo extra. Anímelo a que lo use bien mezclando la relajación y la preparación para el nuevo año.

**Revitalizarse.** Sugíerale a su hijo que haga actividades agradables para las que le ha faltado tiempo. Quizá lea una novela gráfica que lleva meses en el estante o cree una rutina de gimnasia para hacerla con un amigo.

**Ponerse al día.** Dígale a su hijo que piense en cómo puede empezar el nuevo semestre con buen pie. Si tiene que entregar deberes en cuanto vuelva al colegio, podría trabajar en ellos un poquito cada día. También podría vaciar sus carpetas archivando en casa los trabajos que le han devuelto y empezar desde cero en enero. 👍



# Escribir para el mundo real

Cuando su hijo crezca tendrá que escribir por muchos motivos, tanto para redactar trabajos para el colegio, escribir ensayos para la universidad o preparar su currículum. Puede practicar en casa escribiendo con objetivos reales.

**Resumir los datos.** Los escritores tienen que ir rápidamente al grano porque hay mucha información que compete por la atención de la gente. Para practicar su hijo podría escribir un noticiero resumiendo lo más importante acaecido a su familia en el 2017 y enviárselo a sus familiares. Para resumir



cada evento debe concentrarse en datos clave como quién, qué, cuándo, dónde y por qué. (“Maggie, de 10 años de edad, ingresó en la Patrulla de Seguridad de Beacon Elementary School en septiembre”).

## Tener en cuenta a su público.

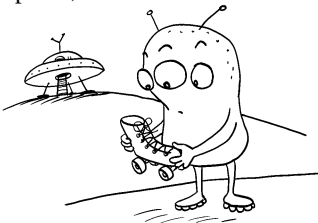
Al centrarse en quién leerá su escrito su hijo procurará que se entienda y que incluya detalles relevantes. Por ejemplo, la versión para estudiantes de un libro de texto contiene información distinta de la versión del maestro.

Para entender la diferencia, su hijo podría crear un manual de uso para grupos diversos. Por ejemplo, podría escribir instrucciones paso a paso para el uso del control remoto, pero hacer una versión para miembros de su familia enterados de tecnología y otra para los que no lo son. 👍

## ¡Bien pensado!

Pensar bien ayudará a su hija a resolver problemas y a tomar decisiones a diario. Use estas amenas actividades con su familia para ayudarla a que desarrolle la creatividad y el pensamiento crítico:

■ Si un extraterrestre viniera a la Tierra y encontrara un patín, ¿para qué creería que se usa? Den respuestas por turnos. Por ejemplo, su hija quizá diga que las ruedas podrían servir para dar un buen masaje de espalda. Continúen hasta que a nadie se le ocurra otra respuesta.



■ Piense en secreto en un objeto e imagine que lo sujeta en sus manos. “Páselo” a otra persona que intentará adivinar el objeto según la manera en que usted lo maneja. Por ejemplo, ¿cómo podría sujetar y lanzar un cubito de hielo, una bola de boliche, una papa caliente o un Frisbee? Después de adivinarlo, la persona que lo recibe imagina que es algo distinto y se lo pasa al siguiente familiar. 👍

### 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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## Qué hacer con los cambios en la amistad

**P** Mi hijo no quiere seguir saliendo con uno de sus nuevos amigos, pero tampoco quiere herir los sentimientos del niño. ¿Qué consejo puedo darle?

**R** Es normal que los estudiantes de la escuela media prueben nuevas amistades, e igualmente normal que uno o los dos decidan que no funciona. Dígale a su hijo que esto está bien, siempre que sea amable al respecto.

Si el otro niño le invita a hacer algo debería responderle en lugar de ignorarlo y rechazar la invitación con cortesía y sin una larga explicación (“Lo siento, no puedo”). Sugíerale también que evite comprometerse para salir en otra ocasión, a fin de que el otro niño no saque la impresión equivocada de que su hijo quiere reunirse con él en el futuro.

Cuando se encuentren en la escuela o en algún acto, debería saludarlo. Esto evita el resentimiento y deja la puerta abierta por si en el futuro quieren volver a ser amigos. 👍



## De padre a padre

### Regalos sin etiqueta de precio

Mi hija de 12 años, Katie, siempre quiere dar regalos por las fiestas, pero no tiene mucho dinero. Este año le sugerí que pensara en qué podía hacer por la gente, en lugar de qué podía meter en una caja o en una bolsa.

Propusimos ideas y me sorprendió el alcance de lo que se nos ocurrió. Como a Katie le gusta cantar, pensó en cantarle a su abuelita

su canción favorita de los años 50. Le sugerí que le ofreciera a su hermano un “día sin tareas”, dejando que él eligiera un día en el que ella se hiciera cargo de sus tareas.

Luego decidió hacerle a su maestra favorita una tarjeta y ofrecerle a echar una mano en el aula.

Es bueno que Katie vea que puede ser generosa sin gastar dinero. Y espero que concentrarse en dar le ayude a pensar menos en recibir. 👍

