

Be There for Your Child in the Formative Years

Parents are a child's first and life-long teachers. Everything you do at home to build children's literacy has long-term effects on how well children are prepared to succeed in school and in life.

Transitioning

- Help your child transition from elementary school to middle school
- Discuss concerns they have before starting middle school, such as:
 - Learning from many teachers
 - Getting to class on time
 - Finding their locker
 - Getting on the right bus
 - Knowing where the cafeteria is
 - Navigating crowded hallways
 - Doing more homework

Parent Involvement

- Communicate often with your child, the teachers, counselors, and the principal, vice-principal, or both
- Visit the school, be knowledgeable about the building where your child learns

Questions to ask the teachers:

- Is there a program to help your child transition?
- Are counselors available to help transition?
- Are teachers and principals accessible to parents?
- When are the parent's nights, sports and arts events and other times when parents are invited to visit the school?
- When can parents volunteer at the school?



This pamphlet was written to inform parents and educators in the local school districts about the importance of attendance. Each school district has its own policies. For more information on Attendance Policies in your school district, please contact the school your child attends.

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Some of the information provided was developed and distributed by <https://www2.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/parentpower/booklet.pdf> with permission to reproduce.



School Contact:

Parent's Guide

Parent Power

Build the Bridge to Success



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MIDDLE SCHOOL

The middle school years are a time of transition: emotional, physical, social and academic. Your support and involvement are essential at this stage of your child's growth. Research shows that pre-teens do better in school when their parents are involved in their lives.



Illinois is a leader in integrating social and emotional learning (SEL) into the student's education. They were the first state in the US to begin requiring schools to use a set age appropriate standard for social and emotional development. As the parent, you can help your child socially and emotionally by talking to your child about the changes in their life as they transition to middle school. Talk to them about the physical and social changes they are experiencing. It would be also beneficial to also talk about the social pressures that often occur in middle school.

How You Can Help Your Child:

- Help your child organize a schedule
- Help your child set goals with a time for completing particular tasks
- Listen to what your child tells you and is really saying between the lines. Be sensitive to their fears. Reserve your comments and actions until you have facts about a situation and know how your child thinks and feels about it.
- Discuss peer pressure
- Communication is the key to being helpful to your child in the pre-teen years
- Welcome and get to know your child's friends
- Be aware of their physical and emotional changes

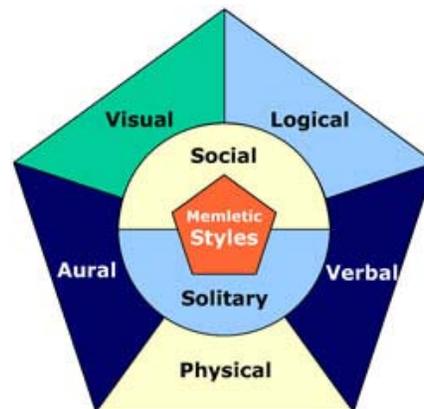
Reading in the middle school years:

Reading is an important part of middle school. Many of the subjects your child studies in middle school involves much more reading than in elementary school. Check with your child's school counselor to see what your child's reading level is.. If your child reads below grade level, check with the school to see what additional reading programs are available to help improve your child's skills.

What is Your Child's Learning Style?:

A learning style is an individual's unique approach to learning based on strengths, weaknesses and preferences. Today's educators are taught to anticipate and respond to a variety of student's needs in the classroom. To do this, they modify the curriculum using the different learning style's in order for all of the students to comprehend what is being taught. If you are aware of your child's learning style, you can better help them with their study skills at home. There are seven learning styles:

- ☆ **Visual Learners**—prefer the use of images, maps and graphic organizers to understand new information.
- ☆ **Auditory Learners**—best understand new content through listening and speaking in situations such as lectures and group discussions. Aural learners use repetition or music as study techniques. They benefit from the use of tools that helps them remember information.
- ☆ **Verbal Learners**—have a strong reading/writing preference and learn best through words. These students may present themselves as good note takers or avid readers. They are able to translate abstract concepts into words and essays.
- ☆ **Kinesthetic Learners**—are hands-on learners. Learn best through figuring things out by hand (i.e. understanding how a clock works by putting one together).
- ☆ **Logical (Mathematical)** - prefer using logic, reasoning and systems.
- ☆ **Social (Interpersonal)** - prefer learning in groups or with other people.
- ☆ **Solitary (Intrapersonal)** - prefer to work alone and use self-study.



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Help your child focus on preparing academically for high school and college. Encourage your child to take challenging classes. You may want to ask your child's teachers these questions:

- Will the classes your child takes help him or her be competitive in college and the work world?
- Is your child having trouble in any classes?
- What tutoring programs are available?
- Does your child have good study habits? Do they read what is necessary to complete an assignment? Hand in assignments on time? Prepare ahead of time for assignments and tests, instead of cramming at the last minute?
- Does your child have the supplies needed to complete assignments?

If you want more information on how to help your child, go to:

- ☆ Illinois SEL Standards <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Social-Emotional-Learning.aspx>.
- ☆ Learning style quiz: <http://vark-learn.com/the-vark-questionnaire/?p=questionnaire>

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