

Middle School Guidance



December 2009

Successful in Middle School

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During elementary school years, parents are very involved with their child's schooling. They know and meet with teachers; are aware of their child's progress and behavior; help solve problems, and see to it that kids spend enough time on homework. Unfortunately, when children enter middle school, some parents stop being as actively involved, as if their help and support are no longer needed. Nothing could be further from the truth! Although your middle-schooler is becoming more independent and is increasingly involved in activities outside the family, you should and must remain the most influential person in his/her life.

Through your involvement in school and extracurriculars, you can do much to help your child believe in the value and importance of education, be enthusiastic about learning, and achieve academic success. Below are things parents can do to help assure success during the middle-school years: (1) Assist your child in managing homework time. Agenda planners and school websites can be very beneficial in success in the mid-

dle school. (2) Show interest in their studies. Talk about what your child is learning each school day. The same goes for the extracurriculars as well. (3) Discuss ideas and feeling about school, studies and activities.

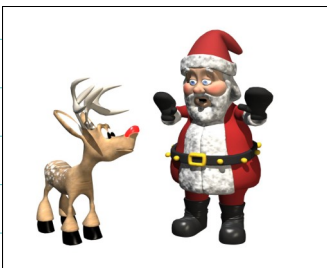
Be realistic about what your child is capable of (and not capable of). Unrealistic expectations leads to frustration for all those involved. (4) Read and review the information about the school together. Knowing the rules,

expectations and policies in advance will provide your child with a sound educational foundation. (5) Contact your child's teacher(s) periodically. Shows involvement on your part as a parent. (6) Attend school on a regular basis. If your child is ill, contact the school for missed assignments. This will prevent him/her from falling behind. (7) Know your child's friends. Friends can influence each other in many facets of life. Stay involved, know who your child hangs out with during school and at home. (8) Make it clear that he/she must follow school rules and policies.

Respecting people and property and knowing right from wrong carries a lot of weight. Knowing what to do in a negative situation can be helpful as well. (9) Conduct regular family meetings at home. This teaches communication between individual's as well as being able to solve conflicts and problems. (10) Acknowledge and reward efforts at school. Provide appropriate praise when your child does well at school. (Scholastic.com)

Quote of the month

"The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing." (Walt Disney)



Merry
Christmas

Points of Interest:

- ✓ - Absent from school? Check out the teacher lesson plans by logging into the Logic House Parent Portal.
- ✓ - Excuses are due the day students return to school. A grace period of three days is allowed before becoming illegal.
- ✓ - Bullying information can be found at: <http://www.bbsd.com/bullying>

Contact Mr. Smith

Phone # 267 -6931

E-mail -
msmith@bbsd.com

Webpage - <http://www.bbsd.com/ms/faculty/marksmith>

Important Upcoming Events

The following are a listing of important dates to remember:

December 10, 2009 - Second Nine Week Grading Mid-Term.

December 23, 2009 - Early dismissal.

December 24, 2009 - Christmas Eve.

December 25, 2009 - Merry Christmas!

December 26 through December 31, 2009 - Christmas Vacation.

December 31, 2009 - New Year's Eve.

January 1, 2010 - Happy New Year.

January 4, 2010 - Return to school from Christmas Vacation.

January 4 through January 7, 2010 - 4Sight Assessment

(Grades 5, 6, 7 and 8)

January 18, 2010 - ACT 80 Day.

January 20, 2010 - End of the second nine week grading period.

February 12, 2010 - Snow Day.

February 12, 2010 - Middle School "Love Struck" dance. (6:30 - 9:00)

February 14, 2010 - Happy Valentine's Day.

