

WHAT EVERY 6TH GRADE PARENT SHOULD KNOW

Transitioning to middle school can be challenging and a little scary for parents and students. Explorer staff have put together their best advice for making a smooth transition.

BE AN INFORMED PARENT:

- Join our listserv, read them to know what is going on at school.
- Sign up for ASPEN Family Portal to view grades, absences, tardies & lunch accounts.
- Communicate with teachers often and especially if you have concerns
- Read your child's agenda daily. Discuss what they did that day. Is the assignment or learning target written down for each class period?

AT HOME:

- Make sure your child arrives to school on time, having eaten breakfast at home or at school.
- Set & enforce a reasonable bedtime. Middle school students need 8 ½ to 9 ½ hours of sleep every night.
- Take away all phones, chargers & electronics at least an hour before bedtime.
- Have a study area set up at home.
- It is expected that 6th graders read for 30 minutes every night.
- Have your child show you what they did in math. If they do not have math homework, have them play computer math games online. Lists are available on our website.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT:

We encourage you to come to school often. Studies show with parent support, students not only get better grades & test scores, their behavior is also improved.

- Attend assemblies
- Athletic games
- Family nights
- Concerts
- Have lunch with your child
- Volunteer – all volunteer opportunities will be on our listserv.

WHAT IS DIFFERENT FROM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL?

- Your child will have 6 classes and move around the school. It is important that they are organized. Help by checking backpacks and binders often, look for assignments forgotten to be turned in. Make sure they have all supplies needed, paper, pencils, composition notebook, etc.
- Remind them they are responsible for text books and library books, they will incur fines if lost or damaged.
- In PE, all students must change into clothes different than what they wore to school (t-shirt, shorts or sweats and running shoes) in order to fully participate each day. PE fitness logs must be turned in for grades.
- Allow your child to attempt to advocate for themselves. If they are absent, have your child find out what they missed, if they don't, jump in to help. Your goal is to have them advocating for themselves before going to high school.

GETTING EXTRA HELP WITH SCHOOLWORK:

- We have Eagle's Landing during the school day Tuesdays through Thursdays. Students can be assigned to one of their teachers to receive extra help.
- Study Club is after school in the library Mondays through Thursdays. Students receive a snack and can do their work. An activity bus leaves at 4:10 for those who normally ride a bus.
- Teachers may ask your child to stay after school to get extra help. If your child's teacher asks them to stay after for help, please make arrangements to support this opportunity.