Middle School Transition Tips for Kids

- Go on a campus tour for new students.
- Ask questions! If you’re wondering about something, chances are lots of other kids are wondering too.
- If your new school pairs new students with a “buddy” in a higher grade, don’t be afraid to ask the older student any questions you may have. She’s learned the ropes already and can teach you how things work.
- Check out the clubs and after-school sports teams. It’s a great way to meet kids who enjoy the same things you do.
- Hang out with the kids you’re comfortable with. Being yourself is more important than being “cool.”
- Be open with your teachers about areas where you have trouble. The more information they have, the better they can help when things are tough. If it would help you feel more confident, practice what you’ll say to the teacher with a parent or other adult.
- Get organized! Figure out what works best to keep your assignments in order. One notebook with dividers for each subject? A separate notebook for each class?
- Keep track of all of your assignments in a planner. You’ll see by looking at one calendar when all your work is due. Work out a homework schedule to avoid bottlenecks and last-minute rushes.
- Get familiar with the school’s homework website or homework hotline. Use it to double check your class assignments. If your school doesn’t offer a website or hotline, ask your teacher for a homework buddy you can call if you forget to write an assignment down.
- Learn to email your teachers with questions

Advice from Kids Like You

All kids are nervous when they move from elementary school to middle school, so you are not alone. Here is some advice, from kids like you, on how to handle the transition.

To speak to other kids like you in a secure online environment, go to www.SparkTop.org!

If you’re nervous when summer comes, find a way to know the building. Are they having an open house? Can you print off a map? Be creative and DON’T worry.

It’s just like elementary. The first few days you might get lost, but there will be teachers outside the doors. As long as you have your friends with you even if they aren’t in your classes it still helps to have them…

Middle school is actually kinda fun and the day goes by a lot faster when you are switching classes. So don’t be scared. Besides, you’ll make loads of new friends.

When you have middle school orientation, just bring your class list, and go around the school and find them before you start school!

For more information on this topic, see our related article: “Smoothing Your Child’s Transition to Middle School,” available at: http://www.schwablearning.org/articles.asp?r=1106.

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