

Student Success:

November 2011



Tips Families Can Use to Help Students Experience Academic Success

ONE Step At A Time

Inside the Middle School Brain. . . .

Raising a child is probably the most gratifying job any of us will ever have— and one of the most challenging. The middle school student is a creature of paradox— at times childlike and then, quite suddenly, not. Strong emotions often overshadow other thoughts and affect behavior as well.

These practical tips and techniques can help parents talk easily and openly with their middle school child about some very tough issues. Here are 10

helpful tips for speaking with children about any difficult topic:

1. Start early.
2. Initiate conversations with your child.



3. Create an open environment.
4. Communicate your own values.
5. Listen to your child.
6. Try to be honest.
7. Be patient.
8. Use everyday opportunities to talk.
9. Talk about it again. And, again.

Emma McDonald, "A Quick Look Into the Middle School"



Brain," www.naesp.org/resources/2/Principal/2010/J-Fp46.pdf

Managing Homework

Provide a quiet study place for your child. Have study materials available.

Students frequently require help organizing their binder. Help your child develop a system for maintaining their notebook. Your child's teachers may have specific tips for maintaining a notebook.

Aid your child in keeping up with daily assignments. Some schools furnish student planners, but that does not mean your child will use them. Check to make sure planners are being used consistently and appropriately.

Encourage your child to identify a study buddy they can call to help with assignments, get clarification, find out about makeup work. Some parents have even established study teams and times, so students have planned opportunities to study after school.

Help your child develop an effective note taking system. Usually, note taking is taught in class, so it might be a matter of checking over your child's class notes.

Source: "General Homework Tips: Getting Organized," connectedmath.msu.edu/parents/tips.shtml

Growth Mindset

Our goal at *Patterson* is to build a cadre of teachers and administrators who can integrate the *student success mindset* into their normal daily teaching practices. Parents, likewise, are encouraged to work with their student so that learning and involvement are reinforced at school and at home. A positive *mindset* toward learning, along with a strong support system, increases the student's capacity to learn by changing their beliefs about capabilities and learning. It is the first step to building a healthy self-concept, where students begin to take responsibility for their behavior, study habits and their future.