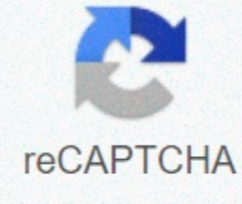




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Middle school developmentally appropriate

Moving from middle school to high school is a very exciting time in the life of a child - and a parent. But it can also be scary, it's not just moving to a different school -- it's a whole new environment. The beginning of high school can be overwhelming and confusing, not just because buildings are physically larger and the campus is unfamiliar. Children who leave bubble middle school for high school jungles not only to deal with new teachers and academic demands, but also a completely different group of students, some of whom are three years old and much more mature. Switching to high school can be catastrophic if the child doesn't move smoothly - more children who fail in ninth grade than any other class [Source: Webber]. Most school systems pave the way through the implementation of transition programs, which can involve everything from campus visits to shading students, but this is never easy. Our list of top 10 differences between middle school and high school will help you identify some pitfalls that may run across your child entering ninth grade - such as what happens when your math sizzling trombone play discovers that band practice conflicts with calculus? We hope you find some tips that you will get through this often crazy time. The contents of one of the scariest things about moving from middle school to high school is the often significant increase in school size. It's hard enough to make the transition from a three-grade school to a fourth-grade school - then on top of that, many middle schools from one area are often buried in one high school. So there can easily be four times the number of children in high school, most of whom will be absolute strangers. As the first day of ninth grade looms, it can be overwhelming to imagine entering a completely unfamiliar campus (and much larger) and wandering in a sea of new faces. Most high schools are very alert about easing the transition, but it's not hard to see how children can get lost in shuffle. The largest student body leads to the following item in our list ... Advertising we know that high schools have higher enrollment rates than middle schools, so it makes sense that individual classes will get bigger, too. The proportions of students to teachers vary greatly throughout the country, but in general, secondary school classes are larger than middle school classrooms. It may not be much, but it doesn't make a difference. The jump from class 15 to one class with 20 children doesn't look huge from the deal, but it leads to things feeling more impersonal and less personally interacting with the teacher. There is certainly much less hand holding in high school - older children are expected to be more responsible and independent, so (in theory) they don't need much attention from their teachers. And a child who's not quite ready for the job can be finished. falling through the cracks. Advertising eighth grader teachers seem to spend an excessive amount of time trying to make it clear to their students (or trying to scare their students, but you want to look at it) that there will be a lot of homework in high school. They do it for a reason: there are a lot of homework in high school. Children who are not so ready can be in for a bad shock during the first month or so of the ninth grade. The increased workload - along with the stress of new environments, schedules, expectations, teachers and classmates - can throw some children into a loop, so it's especially important for parents to be in their game during this transition time. Eighth grade advertising - especially in the last two months - is a giddy time for some children. They're the oldest (and therefore, the coolest) in school, and they take any chance to lord this truth to anyone they see to be under neath them (that is, like, you know, everyone). But when September rolls, they quickly discover how frustrating it can be to land from the tip of the pack to the bottom of the barrel. So, for the other reasons we just discussed, many children find themselves floundering in ninth grade. Some schools have tried to combat this phenomenon by separating a student from the crowd a little bit -- they create ninth-grade academies or smaller class sizes to keep some of that feeling in middle school longer. Advertising in most middle schools, with their focus on community building and student care, children don't get much choice in what classes they take. Students may be placed in different groups based on skill level, but in general, there is a slight difference in courses. Sixth grade is American history, seventh grade is pre-algebra, and that's it. High school is an entirely new ball game, with seemingly endless options - something exciting, obviously, but can be overwhelming. Scheduling is always difficult, too: what happens if your child who plays trombone is also a whim perw, and advanced trigonometry is at the same time with band practice? Or if physics conflicts with French? There may not be an easy answer or a quick solution, but if parents, teachers and counselors work together, they can create a balanced schedule. Advertising may think that, as academic and sports demands increase in high school, so it may involve parents. After all, this is a critical time in your child's life - very soon, they fly the fold, never to be seen again. But you're thinking wrong: parental participation actually drops during high school years. One reason is that high schools often don't court parents as much as primary and middle schools do - they're just a more accessible kind of environment. parents also usually assume that their contributions are not needed as much Children are older and more responsible. Many studies have shown that parental participation is a key factor in their children's success. So go ahead and volunteer -- your kids may feel embarrassed to be there, but that's for their own good. Advertising people often refer to middle school as a bubble - students are doing reading, writing and arithmetic, of course, but sometimes the process is emphasized more than the end result. Children learn about themselves, are safe in their small community, and there is not much focus on the outside world. But all this changes in high school suddenly the goal is very clear: college. No more loitering - this is the real deal. Some students, certainly, focus on the degree from day one, so this change in goals can be exhilarating - finally, all of these as a promise to something! However, dissonance can be for a child who may not be all concerned about grades. So again, it's up to you, parents -- it's your job to remind the underperformers to step up the plate. Declaration of poor ninth graders. As if they don't already have enough to manage, what with an overwhelming new environment, larger class size and growing academic demands, they also have to juggling multiple new teachers. In middle school, children may have at least two or three different teachers per day, but high school (as it does with everything) kicks up a few cracks. Now, they can have six or seven teachers every day - all with their own methods, standards, workloads, temperament and privacy. No wonder it's really a drop in grades and dropout rates in the ninth grade. So, even when you stay on top of your child's work and grades, remember to be understanding -- this can be a difficult time. Once you reach the x and 11th rows, though, you can really break the whip. The announcement of most of the changes we've discussed so far in this article has some contradiction associated with it - moving to high school is exciting and scary. But sports are one part of high school life that can be parked directly in an exciting spot. Most middle schools have sports teams, but they don't bring school to life like high school sports can. It's just like a shift in focus with academics: sure, middle school sports is fun, but high school football is the real deal. Even if your child is not an athlete, sporting events provide plenty of opportunities for social interaction with new classmates. Also, the taste of the school spirit never hurts - it gives children the beginning of a new identity, which can make the transition a little less painful. Ad you know we'll get to this one sooner or later, don't you? Peer pressure raises her ugly head very early in any child's life, but the risks are certainly raised in high school. pressure to drink and do drugs certainly shows up for some during Years of schooling, but kids (and parents) are quickto realize that those fears are small potatoes compared to what is lurking in high school. And not just about illegal substances, it's clothes, eating, cheating and calling it what you want, capitulating to peer pressure can quickly derail an academic career, a key factor in many leaks. As always, parents need to be vigilant and, most importantly, keep lines of communication open. To learn more about the differences between middle school and high school, see links on the following page. Parents mow the lawn down obstacles and difficulties before their children can face them. HowStuffWorks talks to experts about parenting style. Bennett, Laurie J. And McIver, Martha Abel. 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