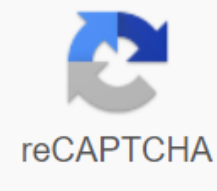




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Longwood middle school ny

The transition from high school to high school is quite an exciting time in the life of a child - and a parent. But it can also be scary. It's not just moving to another school - it's a whole new environment. At first, high school can be overwhelming and confusing, and not just because the buildings are physically larger and the campus is unfamiliar. Children leaving the middle school bubble for a jungle high school not only deal with new teachers and academic demands, but also completely different students, some of whom are three years older and much more mature. Switching to high school can be disastrous if a child doesn't make the transition smoothly - more kids fail in ninth grade than any other class (source: Weber). Most school systems don't pave the way for implementing transition programs that can include everything from campus visits to shaded students, but it's never easy. Our list of top 10 differences between middle school and high school can help you identify some of the pitfalls you can run over when your child enters ninth grade - like what happens when your trombone-playing math whiz discovers that band practice conflicts with calculus? We hope you'll find some tips that will get you through this often crazy time. Advertising Table of Contents One of the scariest things about moving from middle school to high school is often a dramatic increase in school size. It's daunting enough to move from a three-grade school to a four-grade school - and besides, several high schools in one area often dump into one high school. So there could easily be four times as many children in high school, most of whom are absolute strangers. As the first day of ninth-grade fabrics, it can be overwhelming to imagine entering a completely unfamiliar (and much larger) campus and walking around in the sea of new faces. Most high schools are quite mindful about a looser transition, but it's not hard to see how kids can get lost in the shuffle. The larger student body leads to the next point on our list... Advertising We know that high schools have higher enrollments than high schools, so that's why individual classes are getting bigger too. The ratio of pupils to teachers varies greatly from country to country, but generally high school hours are higher than high school hours. It may not be much, but it doesn't change anything. Jumping from a 15-student class to one of the 20 kids doesn't seem like a big deal, but it does lead to things feeling a little impersonal and less one-on-one interaction with the teacher. There's definitely a lot less hand-holding in high school - older kids are presumably more responsible and independent, so they (theoretically) don't need as much attention as their teachers. And a kid who's not quite ready the task may end up falling through the cracks. Advertising eighth-grade teachers seem to spend an inordinate lot of time trying to make it clear to their students (or trying to scare their students, but you want to watch it) that there's going to be a lot more homework in high school. And they do it for a reason: there's a lot more homework in high school. Kids who aren't ready for it can be for a nasty shock in the first month or so of ninth grade. Increased workload - along with the stress of new environments, schedules, expectations, teachers and classmates - can really throw some kids into the loop, so it's especially important for parents to have their game in this transition period. Advertising in eighth grade - especially in the last few months - is giddy time for some kids. They are the oldest (and therefore coolest) school, and they take no chances to lord this fact over someone they need under them (it's, like, you know, everyone). But when September rolls around, they discover pretty quickly how demoralizing it can fall from the head of the pack to the bottom of the barrel. Because of this and other reasons we've just discussed, many children find themselves in ninth grade in mourning. Some schools have tried to combat this phenomenon by separating the freshman crowd a little bit - they institute ninth-grade academies or smaller class sizes to maintain some of that middle school feeling for a while longer. Advertising in most high schools, with an emphasis on community building and blooming students, kids don't get much choice in what classes they take. Students may be put in different groups based on skill levels, but overall, there are few differences between courses. Sixth grade is American history, seventh grade is pre-algebra, and that's it. High school is a whole new ball game, seemingly endless choices - which is obviously exciting, but it can be overwhelming. And scheduling is always tough, too: What happens when your trombone-playing kid also has a math whiz and advanced trigonometry at the same time as band practice? Or if physics conflicts with French? There may not be a simple answer or a quick fix, but when parents, teachers and counselors work together, they can create a balanced schedule. Advertising You may think that if academic and athletic demand increases in high school, so can parent engagement. After all, this is a critical time in your child's life - pretty soon, they will fly to the coop, never to see it again. But you'd like to think wrong: Parental engagement actually decreases during high school. One reason is that high schools often don't meet parents' engagement as much as primary and high schools do - it's just more of a hands-off type environment. Parents also usually assume that their bets are not because children are older and more responsible. Not like that. Many studies have shown that parental involvement is an important factor in their children's success. So go ahead and volunteer - your kids may be embarrassed that you're here, but it's in their own interest. Advertising People often refer to the elementary school bubble - students do their own reading, writing and arithmetic, of course, but sometimes the process is emphasized more than the end result. Children learn about themselves, safely in their small communities, and the outside world doesn't focus much. But it's all going to change in high school. Suddenly the goal is very clear: in college. No more fooling around- that's the real deal. Some students, to be sure, are grade focused from day one, so this change of goals can be exhilarating - in the end all of them like to count for something! However, this may be an outburst for a child who may not be all that worried about classes. So again, it's up to your parents - it's your job to remind the undersized to step up to the plate. Advertising for poor nines students. As if they are not already adequately managed by the overwhelming new environment, greater class size and increased academic demands, they must also juggle several new teachers. In middle school, kids probably have a few or more different teachers a day, but high school (as it does everything) starts that up to a few pruning. They can have six or seven teachers every day - all with their methods, standards, workloads, moods and idiosyncrasy. No wonder grades are falling and dropout rates are soaring in ninth grade. So, even if you stay at the top of your child's work and grades, remember that you understand - this can be a difficult time. When they were 10. Advertising Most of the changes we've discussed so far in this article have some ambivalence attached to them - the transition from high school is exciting and scary. But sport is one part of high school life that can be parked squarely on an exciting spot. Most high schools have sports teams, but they don't bring to school life like a high school sports jar. It's like a switch to focus on academics: Sure, middle school sports are fun, but a high school football game is the real deal. Even if your child is not an athlete, sporting events offer many opportunities for social interaction with new classmates. Nor does the taste of the school spirit ever hurt - it gives children a new identity, which can make the transition a little less painful. Advertising You knew we'd get to it sooner or later, didn't you? Peer pressure behind his ugly head pretty early in every child's life, but the stakes are certainly raised in high school. The pressure to drink and do drugs definitely shows up during the middle school years, but children (and parents) soon realize that these concerns are small potatoes compared to what is lurking in high school. And it's not just about illegal substances - it's clothes, eating, cheating, you call it. Succumbing to peer pressure can quickly derail an academic career, and this is an important factor in many dropout cases. As always, parents need to be vigilant and, most importantly, keep communication lines open. For more information about the differences between primary school and high school, see the links on the following page. Lawnmowers parents mow down obstacles and difficulties before their children can face them. HowStuffWorks speaks to experts about parenting style. Bennett, Laurie J. and Mac Iver, Martha Abele. Girls tend to stop going; Boys get told not to come back; Report on gender and dropout problem in Colorado schools, October 2009. (Accessed September 10, 2010) Ray, The right pressure. Slate, 12. (Accessed September 10, 2010) Nancy B. and Irvin, Judith L. Transition from middle school to high school. National Middle School Association Journal, May 2000. 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