

Set the stage for a successful transition to junior high school

Will your child be heading to junior high next year? If so, the time to start preparing for that exciting transition is now.

At school, teachers are helping students get ready. At home, you can do the same thing. To support your child's progress and independence:

- Learn about the junior high school. Read its website regularly. Sign up for notifications on its social media pages. Visit the school. Ask for a tour. The more comfortable you and your child are at the school, the easier it will be to adjust.
- Build school spirit. Learn about the school's clubs, teams, classes, colors and mascot. Talk about your child's interests. What new and exciting things do students learn and do in junior high? Attend a student performance or game together.
- Encourage important habits. Your child should stick to a daily homework routine and practice staying organized. These skills will be critical in junior high and beyond.
- Find out about summer activities, such as library reading programs. Ask the school for suggestions.
- Attend events for new students and families. Join the parent-teacher organization and ask about the volunteer opportunities. Introduce yourself to staff and other parents.
- Find a mentor. Do any of your neighbors or friends have children currently attending the junior high school? Perhaps one could talk to your child about what it's like.
- Keep communicating. Talk with your child about any concerns or questions she may have.

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