Transition to Middle School
The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

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Presentation Overview

- Setting the Stage
- Academic Demands
- Organizational Demands
- Social Opportunities/Challenges
- Implications for IEP
- Transition Prep
- Resources
- Questions & Answers
Things to look forward to

• Interesting academics
• Larger pool of potential friends
• Better facilities/resources
• Interesting and fun extracurricular activities
• More male teachers/staff
• Potentially greater special needs expertise among staff
What are you most concerned about as your child enters Middle School?

- Academics
- Making friends
- Adjustment to larger school/new teachers/more complex environment
- Need to develop greater independence
Nor is a successful middle school student, especially one with special needs.
We’re not in Kansas anymore...
Recommended Reading

MIDDLE SCHOOL: The Real Deal
By Juliana Farrell and Beth Mayall

ASPERGER'S RULES!
How to Make Sense of School and Friends
By Blythe Grossberg, PsyD
Transportation
Lockers and Combination Locks
### Daily Bell Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st</td>
<td>7:56 - 8:55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>8:59 - 9:51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>9:51 - 10:06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>10:10 - 11:02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>11:06 - 11:58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>11:58 - 12:40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>12:44 - 1:36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>1:40 - 2:35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Physical Education
Cafeteria
New Academic Environment
Academic Demands

- More transitions
- More listening/note-taking
- More group work
- More technology
- More tests/quizzes/homework
- More choices
Expectations

- Student is expected to ask for help and advocate for him/herself with teachers
- Teacher-student contracts
- Feedback to student on performance/grades
- Often less direct communication to parents, more shared via website
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rubrics</th>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Introduction/topic</strong></td>
<td>Student properly generates questions and or problems around a topic.</td>
<td>Student generates questions and or problems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conclusions reached</strong></td>
<td>Numerous detailed conclusions are reached from the evidence offered.</td>
<td>Several detailed conclusions are reached from the evidence offered.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Information gathering</strong></td>
<td>Information is gathered from multiple electronic and non-electronic sources and cited properly.</td>
<td>Information is gathered from multiple electronic and non-electronic sources.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summary paragraph</strong></td>
<td>Well organized, demonstrates logical sequencing and sentence structure.</td>
<td>Well organized, but demonstrates illogical sequencing or sentence structure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Grammar and spelling</strong></td>
<td>Punctuation and capitalization are correct.</td>
<td>There is one error in punctuation and/or capitalization.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Used with permission from Teach-nology.*
Academic Support

• Resource Center/Learning Center
  – Content Review
  – Class notes/study guides
  – Homework
  – Writing Assignments
  – Organizational Support

• Homework Club
Homework Humor

It's a Jungle out there!

by HAGEN

Yes, I do have a good memory,
but I didn't pay attention in class:
Can you please help me with my homework?

Hagen Cartoons: http://www.hengencartoons.com
Homework Humor

"And then I just hit delete. I haven't actually eaten any homework for years."
How would you rate your child’s organizational skills overall?

- Excellent
- Very Good
- Good
- Needs improvement
- Horrendous
Organizational Demands

- Schedule
- Backpack
- Binders
- Locker
- Homework area
Executive Function Processes

- Planning
- Organizing
- Prioritizing
- Shifting
- Memorizing
- Checking
- Problem solving
“Tell me and I forget.
Teach me and I remember.
Involve me and I learn.”

-Benjamin Franklin
Recommended Resources
Assignment Planner

Millions of Students
Track their school work with ease
### Customized Checklist

#### Daily Checklist

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Stuff Needed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>✔️ book ✔️ notebook ✔️ pencil ✔️ homework other___________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language Arts</td>
<td>✔️ book ✔️ notebook ✔️ pencil ✔️ homework other___________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>✔️ book ✔️ notebook ✔️ pencil ✔️ homework other ruler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>✔️ book ✔️ notebook ✔️ pencil ✔️ homework other magazine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>✔️ book ✔️ notebook ✔️ pencil ✔️ homework other___________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other:</td>
<td>✔️ book ✔️ notebook ✔️ pencil ✔️ homework other___________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Specials</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>✔️ lunch/ticket ✔️ lunch bag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other: Art</td>
<td>✔️ book ✔️ notebook ✔️ pencil ✔️ homework other crayons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other: PE</td>
<td>✔️ book ✔️ notebook ✔️ pencil ✔️ homework other gym clothes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other:</td>
<td>✔️ book ✔️ notebook ✔️ pencil ✔️ homework other___________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Name:** Jessica Wilson  
**Date:** 9/11/2009
What concerns you most about social life in Middle School?

- Bullying
- Maturity level of my child vs. peers
- Social isolation
- Social media
- Dating/relationships
- Drinking and drugs
Social Opportunities and Challenges

• Greater independence
• Less parental involvement
• Challenges of being/staying current
  – Clothing, music, video games, social media
• Old friends vs. new friends
• Fitting in vs. standing out
• Peer dynamics/social hierarchy
Extracurricular

• Sports
• Clubs
• Music and Theater
Cell Phone

- Important for safety and to stay in contact
- Consider budget
- Establish guidelines
- Supervise regularly
Home Alone?

• Start slowly
• Teach and practice specific skills
  – Phone protocol
  – Locking/unlocking door
• “Safe” activities
• House rules
• Back-up plans
IEP Meetings and Home-School Communication

• Full team meetings tend to be less frequent
  – Not every regular ed teacher will attend
• More email and phone, less face-to-face
• Establish a strong connection with at least staff one member
• Encourage your child to advocate for himself and create a safety net
Possible IEP Accommodations

- Leave class a bit early to avoid hallway crush
- Two sets of books – one for school, one for home
- Personal laptop or iPad
- Modified worksheets/homework/quizzes/tests
- Homework check-in/check-out
- Help accessing school communication
- Morning arrival
- Sensory breaks
- Snack break
Possible IEP Services

• Resource room/Academic support
• Paraprofessional support for
  – Academic classes
  – Afterschool activities
• Social skills group
• Regularly scheduled meeting with counselor
• Consultation from an outside expert
• Special transportation
• ESY
Transition Prep

- Talk to your child about his/her concerns
- Talk to parents of current students
- Visit and tour the school more than once
- Meet teachers in advance if possible
- Practice using the combination lock
- Practice new morning routine if needed
- Read books, school website, etc...
- Create a “Getting to know my child” one pager and send to teachers
  - 3 Strengths, 3 Challenges, 3 Strategies
Recommended Student Reading

• Middle School – The Real Deal, J. Farrell & B. Mayal, ©2007
• No B.O.!: The Head-to-Toe Book of Hygiene for Preteens, M. Crump, © 2002
• Asperger’s Rules, How to Make Sense of School and Friends, B. Grossberg, © 2012
• Social Rules for Kids, S. Diamond, © 2011
• Middle School - The Stuff Nobody Tells You About: A Teenage Girl with ASD Shares Her Experiences, H.Moss, © 2010
Recommended Parent Reading

- Smart but Scattered Teens, R. Guare, P. Dawson, C. Guare © 2012
- Organizing The Disorganized Child, M. Kutscher & M. Moran, ©2009
- Raising a Thinking Preteen, M. Shure, ©2000
- The Hidden Curriculum for Understanding Unstated Rules in Social Situations for Adolescents and Young Adults, B. Smith Myles, M. Trautman, R. Chelvan, ©2013
Recommended Parent Workshops/ Webinars from AANE

• Welcome to the Teen Years
• Homework Help
• Why does my child behave like that?
• Short term support groups for parents of tween girls (fall) and boys (spring)
• Grow UP! Helping Teens Become Competent Adults

For more information, and to register, visit:
http://www.aane.org/upcoming_events/aane_event_list.html
https://student.gototraining.com/327hl/catalog/4618140501300593920
Questions & Answers
THANK YOU!