

# IB Educating for Excellence.

Information for **Parents** of 5th & 6th Grade Students

## How to Help Your Student Succeed in Middle School

*The results of recent research are very clear: when parents are actively involved in their children's education, students do better in school.*



Many parents who are actively engaged in their children's elementary education become less involved when their sons and daughters reach middle school. This is true despite the fact that parent involvement in a child's education during the middle school years (ages 10 to 14) is just as important to their success as it is in earlier grades. The results of recent research are very clear: when parents are actively involved in their children's education, students do better in school. The academic level of the parents, their socioeconomic level and their ethnic or racial origin are not determining factors for academic success. It is essential for parents to have a positive attitude regarding education, and to demonstrate trust that their children can do well.

### What can Parents do to Support Education at Home?

There are many ways that parents can demonstrate to their adolescent children that they are interested in academic success and that they are available to offer support and protection when there are problems. Here are some suggestions:

- *Talk with your child about what happens at school every day. Ask if there are messages being sent home from school.*
- *Spend some relaxed time with your child.*
- *Tell them often what you like about them.*
- *Listen to and share their worries. Offer your help to change any school practices that you believe could be harmful to your child.*
- *Avoid scoldings and arguments when your teenagers bring bad news home. Listen to their reasons and offer your help to improve the situation. Let*

*your child know you believe they will be successful.*

- *Value your children's education by encouraging homework and reading. Help them choose a good time and place to do assignments and special projects. Provide the necessary materials.*

### What can Parents do in the Middle School?

The way that parents become involved in the middle school can be somewhat different from what they were accustomed to in the elementary school. Generally, the building is larger, and it could be located farther from home. A middle school student may have several teachers, not just one as in the elementary school. The schedule is probably more complicated. Don't be surprised if your teenagers feel embarrassed when you go to their school. Here are some suggestions to increase your involvement:

- *Get to know several teachers, not just one. Don't wait for a problem to talk to them.*
- *Keep in touch with the guidance counselors. They generally know all of the students in the school, and they can keep you informed regarding the progress and behavior of your child.*
- *Read all information on school policies and curriculum carefully. Normally, schools send this information home at the beginning of the school year.*
- *Review your child's school records each year. It is your right, and you should know what is in the file.*
- *Keep informed about your child's grades and test results, especially in*

*any subject in which he or she has problems. Ask for help if it is needed.*

- *Request periodic meetings with the teachers. If you don't speak or understand English, ask for a translator or bring a bilingual friend or family member with you. Request information concerning programs that the school offers for students with limited English proficiency. Be sure your child is placed in the program that best meets his or her needs.*
- *Get to know other parents and form support groups to work on problems and issues of mutual interest.*
- *Answer notes and other correspondence the school sends. If you do not understand these messages due to language problems, ask the principal to send them to you in the language you understand.*

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### Join the PTA!

Both CFA and Northside Blodgett have active Parent Teacher Association groups. PTA members often are first to hear about what is going on at school and can experience positive relationships with faculty and staff because of working together on PTA activities.

Visit C-PP's IB site to learn more.

[www.corningareaschools.com](http://www.corningareaschools.com)

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