

Parent Orientation 7th-8th Grades



The Calvary

A C A D E M Y

Welcome to *CrAzY TOwn...* aka – The Junior High

Congratulations! Your student just went from top dog to low man on the totem pole! Here's what to expect and how to cope.

DISCOVERING WHO YOU ARE

- ❖ Good news! Your student is growing up. As adolescence begins their body will begin changing. *Do not be alarmed.* You went through this process once before as well and will be there to help and support your student should they have any questions.
- ❖ As your student begins developing and maturing, expect the family dynamic at home to change. They are beginning to establish themselves as autonomous persons, and while they still need your guidance in their life, they will think that they do not. This may lead to many seemingly irrational disputes even from the most gracious of children. Be ready for this!

SOCIAL INTERACTIONS

- ❖ Welcome to the new world...
- ❖ Since students are now beginning to develop and mature, social criticism, cruelty and peer pressure will be at an all-time high. Most often, students who are not confident in who they are will tear down those around them by highlighting their differences in a negative light.
- ❖ We do not accept this behavior at this school, and we encourage all of our students to speak positively about one another. We build each other up, not tear each other down.
- ❖ As a parent, you play a vital role in the development of your child's identity and aspect of beauty. Please be very careful to make sure it is a positive influence and not a negative one.
- ❖ In addition, junior high students will now be in contact and communication on a daily basis with high school students. Usually this contact has very positive results on younger students and helps them to stabilize and normalize their behavior as a pre-teen and teenager.
- ❖ Furthermore, the lunch room is no longer mandated silence, and bathroom breaks are no longer monitored by the teachers. This leads to higher levels of responsibility on the students.

ACADEMICALLY SPEAKING

- ❖ Leaving elementary and entering the secondary, your student will begin to have classes with multiple teachers in lieu of having all classes with one teacher. Getting used to multiple teaching styles and personalities can at times be challenging, but it is an essential part of their growth and maturity.
- ❖ Since secondary teachers are preparing students to be good, honest, hard-working adults who contribute to society, we will be expecting more out of them.
- ❖ There will be a heavier course load. Homework may take anywhere from 30 minutes up to 2 hours some evenings.
- ❖ There will also be an increased expectancy of your students to be organized on their own and prepared for each class on time.
- ❖ Since the concepts of beauty and social standards begin to play a vital role in the life of students at this age, do not be surprised if your normally A+ average student drops to a B+

average student or lower. Their main focus is no longer academics but rather what Susie thought of my new shoes today, or whether that green piece of food in my far back molar was showing when I smiled at Johnny.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

- ❖ Our mission as teachers, and as a school, is to not only teach your student about history, grammar, and math, but it is also our duty to teach them self-management and social system skills such as discipline in tracking homework and the work ethic and personal motivation to see a project through to its completion and handed in on time. These are essential education responsibilities that they will need to learn in order to get through high school and beyond.
- ❖ Should your student have trouble conforming to this new way of life in the secondary, and many opportunities will present themselves for such behavior, the consequences will be more severe.
- ❖ Disciplinary action ranges from detentions and Saturday schools up through suspensions and expulsion from our school. And yes, we have used all of these consequences at some point or another, and we are prepared to do whatever is necessary to not only propel your child toward excellence academically, but to also create a safe and secure learning environment for all students attending this school.
- ❖ As junior high students are now being held at higher standards, a teacher's leniency will no longer be guaranteed. We are entrusting them with more responsibilities and to whom much is given, much is required.

HOW TO SUCCEED – PARENT EDITION

- ❖ First and foremost, you must understand that your student is no longer in elementary. Partner with their teachers in helping your student develop good organizational and time management skills.
- ❖ Parents must support their students by supervising the development of essential study skills and staying in tune to all happenings with your student at the school. An alert parent is a teacher's best friend.
- ❖ In order to avoid dropping grades, be diligent in monitoring your student's classwork. And yes, shocking as it may seem, they may lie to you and tell you that they have no homework. While your student may enjoy a study hall from time to time in the junior high, it most likely will not be enough time for them to complete all assignments for all classes.
- ❖ Require your student to keep an assignment tracker and show it to you each day after school. Yes, I know this is a lot of work for you as a parent, but it is imperative that you be astute and involved now more than ever in your child's education.
- ❖ Rarely allow your student to take a night off! If they do not have any homework, chances are they may have an upcoming test. Have them study! Or have them read a book.
- ❖ Last, but not least, please monitor your child's electronic communication. Develop a system of trust with your student and clear boundaries about your expectations for their usage of electronics and social media. Be clear as well about the consequences should they step over the boundaries you have established.

HOW TO SUCCEED – STUDENT EDITION

- ❖ Be prepared for all classes with a writing utensil, paper to write with, a folder to store papers, and a planner to track assignments.
- ❖ Track all assignments given and their due dates. If something is unclear, ask for clarification.
- ❖ Set up a routine afterschool. For example: I get home; I eat a snack and begin immediately to work on assignments due the next day. When my parents get home, I will show them my school assignments, ask for help on any questions I can't figure out, pack up my bookbag and set it by the door in preparation for the next day of school before eating dinner with my family.
- ❖ When a large project is assigned that will take several weeks or longer, break it down into manageable chunks. Teachers will most likely help you do this already.
- ❖ Keep a separate homework file so that when you go into class you know exactly where all of your homework is located.
- ❖ Keep a clean bookbag and a tidy locker. Know where all of your things are at all times.
- ❖ Begin established strong study habits now. This is your training ground for high school and beyond. Remember, procrastination is not your friend.

Resources:

<http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/surviving-your-childs-adolescence/201104/adolescence-and-the-transition-middle-school>