

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL

IN MIDDLE SCHOOL	IN HIGH SCHOOL
MOST IMPORTANT: Your environment is less personalized than elementary school, but it structured and small compared to high school.	MOST IMPORTANT: High school is less personal than middle school, bigger campus, time is structured, and you are responsible for getting to classes on time.
Your time is structured by the school and you must stay on campus the entire day.	Your time is structured by the school but there will be flexible time in your day for which you have control.
You need permission to participate in extracurricular activities and will be constantly monitored.	You still need permission to participate in extracurricular activities, but will be monitored less.
You will still be monitored by adults and your goals will be set primarily by the adults in your life.	Adults will support you but you are expected to be responsible for yourself and begin setting your own priorities.
ALL of your classes are arranged for you.	ALL of your classes will continue to be arranged based on graduation requirements, but you and your parents have input.
MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASSES	HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES
MOST IMPORTANT: You will be told in class what you need to learn from assigned work and readings.	MOST IMPORTANT: You will usually be told in class what you need to learn and expected to produce work that reflects your understanding of class material and readings.
The school year is approximately 36 weeks long; most of your courses extend over a year long period except electives.	The school year is approximately 36 weeks long; most classes extend over both semesters.
You may study outside class as little as 1 to 5 hours a WEEK , and this may be mostly completion of in class work .	You will need to study outside of class 1 to 3 hours a DAY and will have a significant amount of homework.
You usually do not need to read materials more than once, and sometimes listening in class is enough.	You will need to read materials more than once, and listening in class is not enough.
Grades in MIDDLE School	Grades in HIGH SCHOOL
MOST IMPORTANT: "Effort counts." Courses are usually structured to reward a "good-faith" effort.	MOST IMPORTANT: Grades are results based with little credit given for "good-faith effort".
Homework points may help raise your overall grade when test scores are low, but homework can also drag a grade down when not completed.	Your grades are based on tests and major papers more than homework.
Extra credit projects are often available to help you raise your grade.	Extra credit projects may not be an option.
Low test grades in the beginning of the semester may little effect on your final grade as long as you did better towards the end.	Test grades can have a big effect on your final grade because they are less frequent and cover more material.

MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHERS:		HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS:	
MOST IMPORTANT: Middle school exposes you to a variety of teachers and teaching styles.		MOST IMPORTANT: High school is a teaching environment where concepts and skills are acquired, and you are expected to apply what you have learned.	
Check your completed homework.		May not always check completed homework, but will assume you can perform the same tasks on tests.	
Remind you of incomplete work.		Will expect you to monitor your work and grades through IC.	
Approach you if they believe you need assistance.		Might approach you if they believe you need assistance, but want you to begin to initiate the process.	
Are often available for conversation before, during, or after class.		Are less available for assisting students and are more likely to refer you to someone else.	
Provide you with information you missed when you were absent.		Expect you to ask for anything you might have missed or get notes from classmates.	
Will take the time to remind you of assignments and due dates.		Many teachers only tell their students once about assignments and due dates and expect them to refer to their notes, website or syllabus.	
TESTS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL		TESTS IN HIGH SCHOOL	
MOST IMPORTANT: Testing is frequent and covers small amounts of materials.		MOST IMPORTANT: Tests are usually more infrequent and may be cumulative, covering large amounts of materials.	
Makeup tests are often available.		Makeup tests are seldom an option unless you were absent; if they are, you need to request them.	
Review sessions, which point out the most important concepts, happen often.		Review sessions may be offered, but students are expected to be engaged and ready to review the material.	