

Making Successful Transitions

Handout

Students will develop academically, socially and emotionally with each major transition from one educational institution to the next and will need many new skills with each coming academic year. The following are some things to keep in mind as we accompany our children on this journey!

From Elementary School to Middle School:

- ✓ READ, READ, READ! Read with your children and encourage them to read on their own. Students have to learn an average of 3,000 words each academic year in order to be successful as they go on to the next grade. Reading is the best way to acquire vocabulary and language, and reading often and in progressively larger quantities will prepare students for how difficult school will be in the future.
- ✓ Help students strengthen their study skills. Students need to know how to organize information effectively, including knowing how to do outlines, take notes, and structure and group information.
- ✓ Students will need to fulfill the expectations of six or more different teachers.
- ✓ Students will need to be more self-motivated to make personal choices and good decisions.

From Middle School to High School:

- ✓ Students will need to be self-directed in making personal choices.
- ✓ Students need to consume large amounts of information in an efficient manner.
- ✓ Students need to learn to adapt to working with more teachers and will have to acquire information through listening to lectures, often without much interaction during the class period.
- ✓ Students will need to seek out academic counseling services and understand how to make use of support services.
- ✓ Students will need to know how to organize and complete homework assignments while working independently and attend classes with minimal prodding from school staff.
- ✓ Students may need to adjust to a more depersonalized setting if they attend a large, comprehensive high school. In such an environment, many teachers and staff will not know your child's name.