



# Parents of Middle School Students

## September to November To-Dos

There's no better time than the start of the school year to implement and cement good habits. We've incorporated our favorite suggestions into a checklist to help you and your child start the year off on the right foot.

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- Work with your child to create a homework routine—decide when and where they will do their work each day.
  - Sit down with your child and set some goals, both long term and short term. What does your child want to improve on this year?
  - Take time to help your child organize materials—determine how and where they will keep notes for each class. This will be especially helpful come midterms and finals.
  - Look for ways to emphasize process instead of outcome. Praise effort and perseverance rather than achievement.
  - If your child is struggling with schoolwork or subject matter, encourage them to be proactive about asking for help. This will get them back on the right track and strengthen relationships with teachers.
  - In the first month, check in on how your middle-schooler is getting along with their teachers—especially those in subjects that tend to be challenging for your child—so you can address these challenges as early as possible.
  - Check in with your child at the end of October to see if they could benefit from a tutor. It may seem early, but giving your child proactive support throughout the year is more effective than emergency homework help or last-minute cramming.
  - Help your child to explore their extra-curricular interests and find out where their passions lie. By the time they reach high school, students should be committing themselves whole-heartedly to extracurriculars they're excited about.
  - International Students*  
Help your child develop their English language reading skills by reading articles and/or books together and picking out new vocabulary words to learn.