

Middle School Checklist

JANUARY - MARCH TO-DOS

At Private Prep, our diverse team of tutors and experts cover a wide range of academic needs at the middle school level. We've compiled their advice into a single to-do list to help you manage the middle of the school year and plan for the future without getting overwhelmed or burned out.

The year is long, and middle schoolers have shorter time-references than adults do. The beginning of the year will feel like forever ago.

- Create a "second semester" binder that summarizes learnings in each class. A quick review will help your child feel successful and in control of the school work.
- Recognize academic progress up to this point. Ask your child to write down one positive and one negative experience from each class and extracurricular.
- Find time for rest, recovery, and fun. Students need breaks to replenish their energy and maintain motivation throughout the long school year.
- Now that school is in flow, consider adding to your child's responsibilities. Foster independence with checklists and provide a planner for self-scheduling.
- Seasonal mood changes and the shakeup of schedules over the holidays can knock good habits off kilter. Stay supportive and positive about your child's efforts even if the causes of stress seem arbitrary or flimsy.
- Be proactive about helping students adjust to new sports and extracurricular schedules.
- Check in with your child's teachers to strengthen these relationships. This is the last chance to affect a teacher's impression of your child and improve the classroom dynamic.
- Start mapping out spring break—what fun and educational trips can you incorporate into your plans?

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

- ESL students should give special attention to reading and writing in English. Continue developing these skills by reading, watching videos, and picking out new vocabulary words to learn in English.

Keeping the momentum high mid-year is important, but it can be challenging to achieve. We are here to help ensure that you and your child are supported along the way, so don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or need guidance throughout the year.

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