

It's Never Too Late To Get Involved

If you've never taken a very active role in your child's education, you may wonder if you're too late. You are not. It's never too late for you to become more involved with your child's education. The middle school years are an important time to become involved because parental guidance is a key to developing a successful student.

Parent involvement produces:

- Higher grades and test scores
- Better attendance and more homework completed
- Fewer placements in special education
- More positive attitudes toward school and better behavior
- Increased enrollment in education after high school

What is a Volunteer?

A volunteer is anybody, anytime, any place who supports school goals or children's learning. So you can be a volunteer at your home. Here's how:

- Encourage your child to read. Think your child is too old to read to you? Try it. You may be surprised. ☺
- Set aside a regular time and place for homework and enforce it by turning off the television and not answering the phone.
- Let your middle schooler know that effort—not intelligence—is the real key to success in school.
- Visit the library regularly. It's just as important when your child is in middle school as it was when he/she was a toddler. It's also the least expensive way to promote reading.
- Keep close track of how well your child is doing in school. In one U.S. Department of Education study, parent monitoring of school progress was the single most important thing separating "A" students from those who earned a grade of "C" or below.
- Talk about middle school. Ask your child what was the most important that he/she learned today. Ask about new assignments and upcoming tests. Get your child to share ideas about what he/she thinks will be on his/her next history test.
- Remember, there is no such thing as "no homework". If there are truly no school assignments to be completed, make one up. Ask your child to choose a subject that interests him/her and have them do a little research. Have your child read through the newspaper about current events or read a book.