

The Marauder



October 2018

From the Principal...

Dear Parents,

Another school year is successfully under way. These opening weeks have brought a high level of eagerness and excitement for learning from our faculty and students. Our teachers continue to focus on student centered personalized learning that promotes reading, writing and cooperation. We will work closely with our students to meet their needs, develop their skills and enjoy the learning process.

At the Middle School we strive to create a positive culture and climate; promoting student involvement. There are a variety of clubs, sports and activities we offer to encourage engaged and well rounded students. We also encourage all students to take advantage of academic supports such as staying after 10th period and utilizing the library/media center. Throughout the year there will be a variety of opportunities for the students and families to support their connectedness to the school.

Students were ready to be back in school and it shows. Student attendance is very good (only a few students out each day) and disciplinary referrals are low. We have continued our PBIS initiative in the Middle School this year.

Students appear to be engaged in learning and we continue to need the support from families to ensure students are following through on assignments. Our Open House on the 27th of September was well attended once again. This was an opportunity to meet your child's teachers and hear this year's expectations.

Also, a reminder that you will have the opportunity to pick up your child's first quarter report card and have discussions with teachers on the evening of November 15th from 5:00 to 6:00 pm at the Middle School. From 6:00-8:00 parent/teacher conferences will be scheduled (you can also pick up your report cards at this time).

Together let's capture the high degree of excitement that this school year has begun with and continue supporting student growth and achievement.

John E. Fulmer, Principal
Williamson Middle School



Like us on facebook at

www.facebook.com/williamsoncentral



Williamson, NY



the difference
can make.

Greetings From the Assistant Principal...

As the school year begins, we at the Williamson Middle School have launched a new behavioral support system. Under our new MTSS (Multi-Tiered Systems of Support) we believe we can enhance the services we provide to our students. Within this new layered support system, we have enacted a new PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports). Research has shown, if you model positive behaviors and reward them, student misbehavior dramatically decreases. This year, we are modeling our new PRIDE philosophy. Our PRIDE motto stands for Perseverance, Responsibility, Integrity, Dignity and Excellence. When any staff member sees a student practicing these character traits, they are rewarded with a PRIDE ticket. If students have earned a specified number of tickets, they can turn them in and participate in an extra special event. Our first event in October will be "Mega-Playground". Students who have earned the required number of tickets can play World Cup Soccer, basketball, kickball or engage in free play. Again, students can earn these tickets by emulating the characteristics of our PRIDE philosophy. If they try their best, consistently work hard, treat others with respect, then they could be recognized for their efforts.

We have already seen a positive start to our school year, and the climate of the building is one of excitement. Our goal is to make the middle years one of learning and exploration as well as strong character development.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to email or call at (315) 589-9665.

Kathryn Taylor
Middle School Assistant Principal



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**WILLIAMSON STUDENTS AND
FAMILIES FLU SHOT CLINIC**

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2018
4:00—7:00 PM
MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

2018-2019 YEARBOOK ORDERS Special Promotion until October 19th!

Order your yearbook with personalization
and get FREE icons!

YOU must calculate the tax this year, tax is
not included.

You can order online at jostensyearbooks.com or see the order form included
in the newsletter!

Any questions, email mbai-ley@williamsoncentral.org or abaker@williamsoncentral.org

A message from the school nurse:

IMPORTANT: Students may not bring any sort of medication or medicated creams / ointments to school. If the student requires a medication at school it must be dropped off by an adult along with a doctor's order for the medication.

Flu season is approaching. Signs and symptoms of flu include fatigue, high fever, headache, body aches, sore muscles, dry cough, sore throat, and runny or stuffy nose. Occasionally stomach symptoms such as diarrhea and stomach ache can occur as well. If your child has a fever please keep him or her home from school. Please do not give the child fever reducing medicine and send them to school – they are still contagious. Remind your kids to wash their hands frequently and to avoid touching their face to help prevent the spread of illness.

Students should not come to school with a fever or if they have had a fever, vomited or had diarrhea in the last 24 hours. They are still contagious and will get other students and staff sick.

Please remember that all absences and late arrivals from school require a signed note from the parent/guardian. This includes absence for illness, doctor visits, family reasons, and tardiness. If you call your student in as sick you still need to send in a note with them the day they return. Notes from parents/guardians may be brought in by the student or may be emailed to jshaver@williamsoncentral.org.

Please encourage your children to eat a healthy breakfast and to drink throughout the day. Most headaches and stomach aches are due to lack of proper hydration and nutrition. Tube yogurt, a piece of fruit, whole grain toast with peanut butter, yogurt and fruit smoothies, hard boiled eggs, and whole grain low sugar granola bars are all quick and easy grab and go breakfasts. If you would like some additional quick and healthy breakfast ideas, please feel free to contact me at 315-589-9665 or jshaver@williamsoncentral.org.

Thank you,
Jessica Shaver RN, BSN.



CHROMEBOOK INSURANCE



Parents and Guardians,

Our Chromebook one-to-one initiative continues to transform Williamson's classrooms! Our students are increasingly able to access recent information, create content and work together. The 2018-19 school year will be the fourth consecutive year of our Chromebook rollout which covers students in grades K through 12.

We are pleased to inform you that the District is partnering with Safeware insurance to offer optional insurance coverage for 12 months. **Families who purchase this optional insurance will not be charged repair fees, since all repairs and shipping costs are covered in full by SafeWare (zero deductible).**

Buying Chromebook insurance is **optional** and **only** for students in grades 7-12. Parents who wish to take advantage of this opportunity will sign up online directly with SafeWare during the month of September. The only payment forms accepted are credit/debit cards and the annual cost is **\$25.56 per Chromebook**.

Please view the flyer (**enclosed**) from Safeware that includes pricing and detailed information about how you may sign up for Chromebook insurance. Please note that you'll need the serial number for your child's Chromebook when signing up. It is located on the bottom of the Chromebook (see photo example).

If you have any questions, please contact Tim Tyler, Director of Information Technology: email (preferred): ttyler@williamsoncentral.org or voicemail: (315) 589-1730.

Thank You!

IMPORTANT NOTICE FROM THE MAIN OFFICE

Dear Parents,

The Middle School has always required a hand written note from parents for the list of reasons below. Parents should not call school to change bussing or after school arrangements unless it is an emergency. If you do have to make emergency arrangements over the phone, we do require a follow-up note with your signature that needs to be brought to school the next day.

Always send a note for:

- If your child is **absent** for any reason.
- **Leaving school early** for an appointment.
- **Coming to school late** for any reason.
- **Riding the bus to a different location** other than home.
- **Walking home** or to a different location other than home.
- Being **picked up** after school by a parent or other adult.
- If your child will be staying with another adult **while you are away**.





Vamos a Madrid! Allons à Paris!

This is your last chance to register for the Williamson High School Travel Club trip to Madrid, Spain and Paris France in February 2019. Join us as we spend nine days exploring two of the world's most interesting and exciting capital cities. The trip is open to all Williamson CSD employees, students currently enrolled in grades 9 through 12, family members and friends. For more information or registration materials, please contact Lori Anne Heller (lheller@williamsoncentral.org) or Nicole Baker (nbaker@williamsoncentral.org). Registration deadline is October 26, 2018

Apple Crunch Day
...is coming
October 25th @ 2 p.m.



Look for details posted
in each building ...
mid-October



Earn Cash for Our School!

REMINDER:

BRING YOUR BOX TOPS TO SCHOOL SO WE CAN GET SOME COOL STUFF FOR THE SCHOOL!

YOU CAN PUT THEM IN THE CONTAINERS IN THE MAIN OFFICE!

October 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 BPT Mtg @ 2:20 pm	2	3 BOE Mtg @ 6:30 pm	4	5 End of 5 Weeks Travel Club to Washington D.C.	6
7 Travel Club returns	8 Columbus Day NO SCHOOL	9	10	11	12 Interims Mailed Harvest Fest 	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 Superinten- dent's Confer- ence Day	20
21	22 Student/ Family Flu Shot Clinic 4:00-7:00 pm	23 Mix It Up @ Lunch Day	24	25	26	27
 RED RIBBON WEEK						
28	29	30	31 			

Free & Reduced Meal

Application Deadline:

Just a reminder that eligibility for free-reduced price meals expires automatically Wednesday, October 17th if we do not receive a new application by that date. **A new application MUST be completed every year to avoid disruption in benefits**



Williamson Middle School



OCTOBER 2018 Menu

Lunch: \$2.20 Milk: \$.50

Offered Daily:

Fruit & Yogurt Parfait w/cheese stick Salads, Wraps, assorted sandwiches, and PB&J Sandwich

Breakfast: \$1.60 (7:15-7:30 a.m.)

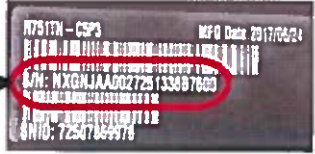
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p>Choose One: 1 Popcorn Chicken w/Wheat Roll Cheesy Meatloaf Burger on Bun</p> <p>-No Wraps-</p> <p>Sides Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Carrot, Sticks Peaches/Fresh Fruit</p>	<p>Choose One: 2 Taco Salad w/chips Hamburger on Bun -No Wraps-</p> <p>Sides: Brown Rice Seasoned Black Beans Lettuce/Tomato Assorted Fruit</p>	<p>Choose One: 3 Soft Pretzels w/cheese sauce Hot Dog on WG Bun</p> <p>Sides Broccoli Cuts Chili w/cracker packet Tossed Salad Assorted Fruit</p>	<p>Choose One: 4 Country Pork Chop w/WG Rolls Pasta & Meatsauce w/WG Roll</p> <p>Sides Tossed Salad Corn Applesauce Fresh Fruit</p>	<p>Choose One: 5 Hot Chicken Wing Pizza or Pepperoni Pizza Toasted Cheese Sandwich</p> <p>Sides Tomato Soup/Crackers Carrots Tossed Salad Assorted Fruit</p>
<p>NO SCHOOL 8 <i>Columbus Day</i></p> 	<p>Choose One 9 "Max" Stuffed Crust Pizza w/Pepperoni BBQ Pulled Pork Sliders</p> <p>Sides: BBQ Pinto Beans Corn Coleslaw Assorted Fruit</p>	<p>NO WRAPS TODAY 10 Chicken Patty on WG Bun (Spicy or Plain) Hot Meatball Sub <i>Grow w/Wayne Wed</i> MOTT's Applesauce Cup</p>  <p>Sides: Sweet Potato Fries Fresh Fruit Lettuce/tomatoes</p>	<p>Choose One: 11 Calzone w/Pepperoni & Cheese Hamburger on WG Bun</p> <p>NO WRAPS TODAY</p> <p>Sides Carrots Tossed Salad Peaches Fresh Fruit</p>	<p>Choose One: 12 Bread Sticks w/Sauce Toasted Cheese Sandwich</p> <p>Sides Tomato Soup w/ Crackers Green Beans Tossed Salad Assorted Fruit</p>
<p>Choose One: 15 Chicken Nuggets w/WG Rolls Salisbury Steak w/ WG Rolls NO WRAPS TODAY</p> <p>Sides Mashed Potatoes Green Peas Assorted Fruit</p>	<p>Choose One: 16 Cheeseburger on Bun Hot Dog on WG Bun</p> <p>Sides Baked Beans Lettuce/Tomatoes French Fries Peaches Fresh Fruit</p>	<p>Choose One: 17 Maurauder Muffin Hamburger on WG Bun</p> <p>Sides Hashbrown Patty Mixed Veggies Tossed Salad Assorted Fruit</p>	<p>Choose One: 18 Chz or Pep/Chz Pizza Slice Fish on Bun Toasted Cheese Sandwich</p> <p>Sides: Tomato Soup/crackers Carrot Sticks Coleslaw Tossed Salad Assorted Fruit</p>	<p>19 Superintendent Conference Day NO SCHOOL</p>
<p>Choose One: 22 Bosco Sticks w/ Sauce Hot Meatball Sub</p> <p>Sides Green Beans Sweet Potato Frie Peaches Fresh Fruit</p>	<p>Choose One: 23 Taco Salad on soft shell/chips Hot Dog on Bun</p> <p>NO WRAPS TODAY</p> <p>Sides Beans – cook's choice Brown Rice Lettuce & Tomatoes Applesauce Fresh Fruit</p>	<p>Choose One: 24 Chicken Patty on Bun (Hot & Spicy or Plain) BBQ Pulled Pork Sliders NO WRAPS TODAY GROW w/ Wayne Wed <i>Cauliflower</i></p> <p>Sides Lettuce/ Tomatoes French Fries Pears &/or Fresh Fruit</p>	<p>Choose One: 25 Teriyaki or Sweet/Sour Chicken w/egg roll, WG roll & fortune cookie Hamburger on a Bun</p> <p>Sides Brown Rice Broccoli Cuts Tossed Salad Assorted Fruit</p>	<p>Choose One: 26 Toasted Cheese Sandwich Pepperoni Pizza</p> <p>Sides Tomato Soup/Crackers Corn Tossed Salad Assorted Fruit</p>
<p>Choose One: 29 Bread Sticks w/ Sauce Mini Corn Dogs</p> <p>Sides Green Peas Baked Beans Pears Fresh Fruit</p>	<p>Choose One 30 Nacho Chips w/cheese sauce & chilli w/cracker pkt Hotdog on wheat bun & Chili w/ cracker pkt NO WRAPS TODAY</p> <p>Sides Broccoli Cuts Tossed Salad Peaches +/or Fresh Fruit</p>	<p>HAPPY HALLOWEEN 31 Chicken Tenders w/rolls Hamburger on Wheat Bun NO WRAPS TODAY</p> <p>Sides: Potato Rounds Tossed Salad Fresh & Cupped Fruit Sugar Cookie</p> 	<p>Lunch menus and nutritional information is posted online at: www.williamsoncentral.org</p> <p>You may send in payments or pay online by enrolling at www.myschoolbucks.com</p> <p>Low/negative balances will be emailed weekly. Please pay promptly</p>	<p>Free/Reduced lunch applications are available online or from any building, and may be submitted throughout the year. Questions: Please call Mrs. Patrzalek at 589-9621 x6.</p> <p>Looking for part-time employment: perfect hours with children in school. <i>This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.</i></p>

Optional Chromebook Insurance

\$25.56 covers the 2018-2019 school year

\$0 deductible

Purchases must be made online only between Sept 4th-28th, 2018.

<p>Please visit: my.safeware.com <small>(not www.safeware.com)</small> User ID: williamson Password: marauders</p>	<p>Acer (22 digits) </p> <p><i>(Note: Serial number is required for signup)</i></p>
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Coverage with Policy:	
Accidental Damage	✓
Theft, Robbery, Burglary	✓
Drops, Falls, Collisions	✓
Cracked Screens	✓
Liquid Spills, Submersion	✓
Power Surge	✓
Vandalism	✓

This group insurance policy will be written in the school districts name. The School will receive the enrollment list of coverage purchased by families. .



*Celebrate Williamson's
2018 Homecoming
With a CHICKEN BBQ!*

The **Williamson Booster Club** is hosting a *chicken bbq* to support our student/athletes and make Homecoming another GREAT community event.

- Friday, October 12, 2018
- \$10.00 pre-sale (purchase from WHS soccer player)...\$11.00 at the event
- Pick up or eat at the games...available 3:00-7:00pm
- Dinner includes: ½ chicken, salt potatoes, mac salad or beans, dinner roll and applesauce



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The Link Crew of the Williamson Central School District is hosting the **Relay for Life of Williamson Central, Saturday, October 13th from 3:00-9:00 pm**, on the high school track and grounds. We invite all to reach out to friends and family to form teams that will *walk* as a means to save lives.

The purpose of the **Relay for Life of Williamson Central** is to raise funds that benefit the lifesaving work of the American Cancer Society, which includes cancer research and free programming for patients, as well as having a fun, memorable experience with your team.

Not in shape for a relay? No worries, this is not a running event; it is a team relay of walking. The challenge is to have someone from your team on the track walking to celebrate accomplishments, remember those lost and fight back against this dreaded disease.

October 13th, 2018 will be another GREAT night at Williamson Central! Food, games, a chinese auction, and face painting will be just a few of the special touches that will provide as we welcome Wayne County and beyond to the **Relay for Life of Williamson Central**.

Ready, Set, Go-register your team today! Don't have a team? No worries, all are welcome to come and check out the event. There will be plenty of opportunities for you to donate at the event.

<https://www.crowdrise.com/RelayForLifeofWilliamson>

WRC PROGRAM LISTING

2018-2019

FALL Basketball (Registration Oct)
 FALL American Sign Language Class
 FALL Fitness Classes (Nov-Dec)
 WINTER Women's Volleyball (Jan-April)
 WINTER Bob DeVoogt Night
 WINTER Indoor Soccer (Registration Jan)
 SPRING Main Street Mile (Apple Blossom)
 SPRING Baseball/ Softball (May-Jun)
 SUMMER Soccer (Registration Apr)
 SUMMER Basketball Clinic (June)
 SUMMER Track & Field Clinic (June)
 SUMMER Tennis Clinic (July)
 SUMMER Cross Country Clinic (Jul-Aug)
 SUMMER Volleyball Clinic (August)



NEW programs are on the way!

FALL BASKETBALL



Registration is OPEN!
Must Register On-line!

Travel Basketball registration ENDS Nov. 1st
 Grades: 5 & 6 boys
 Grades: 4, 5 & 6 girls
 Cost: \$45



Saturday Basketball registration will remain open until Monday, November 26th. Sessions will begin on Saturday, December 1st.
 Grades: 1 & 2 boys and girls (Beginner)
 Grades: 3 & 4 boys and girls (Intermediate)
 Intermediate teams will travel for game play. Check website for details after October 15th.
 Cost: \$40

Coaches Needed: Please consider coaching one of the basketball programs this upcoming season. Coaches selected will be reimbursed the registration fee of one registered child.



Our United Way Donor Designation Agency number is 3344. Your tax-deductible donations can be made through the United Way website or through your paycheck. Thank you to all those who have already signed up to contribute to the Williamson Recreation Committee, Inc.!

GET FIT WITH JEANNIE!

Location: Williamson Elementary Gym
Cost: \$30 for *one class* or \$45 for *both classes*

Must Register On-line!

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 11/6– 12/20
6:30PM – 7:30PM

****Co-ed Adults (age 18 & up)****

Min. participants required to run class: 10

Max 25 Participants

The WRC is pleased to bring you a new addition to our Fall programming, Cardio Kickboxing and Muscle Madness! Join Instructor Jeannie Petrosky each week for energetic cardio and muscle toning workouts.



KARDIO KICKBOXING



A **CARDIO** interval training class for all fitness levels with 45 minutes of Kick & punch combinations to elevate the heart rate and concludes with 15 minutes of abdominal work and a stretch.

MUSCLE MADNESS

A toning class designed for all fitness levels that targets major muscle groups with a variety of low-impact exercises.

QUESTIONS: Please contact Jeannie Petrosky at Jeanniemarie10@yahoo.com



Let's Bowl!

JUNIOR BOWLING

Alley Sports Bar,
 formerly Cherry Lanes
 6742 Maple Ave, Sodus
 Co-ed Ages 5 yrs. – 18 yrs.
 Cost: \$7 per week

Saturdays, September 29th thru April, 2019
9:00AM thru 3 games

IT'S NOT TOO LATE to join in the fun!
No pre-registration is required.

Please contact Richard Bouwens at rbouwens3@gmail.com to **let him know in advance** if you will be attending or to find out more information.

Please Note: This is not a WRC sponsored program.

Williamson Central PTSA News



Visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/WilliamsonCSDPTSA
OR click "PTSA" in the left-hand column at www.williamsoncentral.org

🐾🐾🐾 GET INVOLVED! 🐾🐾🐾

NEXT MEETING

Attend our next meeting on **Tuesday, October 9, at 6:30 p.m.** in the Williamson Elementary School library. We will finalize details for our fall events and review volunteer coverage.

3RD-GRADE ROLLER SKATING COORDINATOR

We are in **URGENT** need of a 3rd-grade roller skating party coordinator. There is just one party to cover for the school year and it's coming up **QUICKLY**—on Weds, 10/24/18. Please help ensure this event is able to be held for 3rd graders. The commitment runs from about 3 to 5:15 p.m. that afternoon. Contact any officer for more information (e-mail addresses below).

🐾🐾🐾 HOW CAN YOU HELP? 🐾🐾🐾

DISTRICT APPROVAL for VOLUNTEERING

Interested in helping with an event during the school year? Just complete an application to become a district-approved volunteer (unless you have been approved during a prior school year—then you're all set!). The application is available on the district website (www.williamsoncentral.org): select the District drop-down then click "More" and select "Volunteer Information." Scroll down and open the "Volunteer Handbook and Application" pdf. There is a notary at the District Office who can assist with finalizing your application—just call ahead (315-589-9661) to make sure the notary will be on-site when you plan to stop in! It's a quick process with years of payoff in being a part of your child's school experiences.

🐾🐾🐾 REACH OUT TO US! 🐾🐾🐾

Co-President: **Elissa Portela** (elissa.c.portela@gmail.com)
Co-President: **Kristin Adams-Wangler** (krose1003@gmail.com)
Vice-President: **Caitlin Beardsley** (caitlinschroeder@gmail.com)
Treasurer: **Stephen Adams** (stephen.adams913@gmail.com)
Secretary: **Jen Manahan** (jmanahan@williamsoncentral.org)

🐾 UPCOMING EVENTS 🐾

October 4

ES Open House

October 9

PTSA meeting @ 6:30 in
the Elementary library

October 24

3rd grade roller skating
party

October 26

Big Pumpkin Day

🐾 BOX TOPS 🐾

Look for Box Tops labels when you shop! The proceeds from this program help purchase useful equipment for ALL our schools and students.



Don't throw away money for our schools! Clip, save, and send in your box tops! Programs are under way for this year!

🐾 MEMBERSHIP 🐾

We are collecting PTSA membership renewals and new memberships! Stop at a meeting to submit your family's membership form, turn it in to any officer, or drop it in the mail. Becoming a member is a very simple and quick way to support programming for our students! Download the Membership Brochure form from the PTSA page on the district website (click "PTSA" at www.williamsoncentral.org).

October 2018

Middle Years

Working Together for School Success



Short Stops

Get going with breakfast

Eating breakfast will help your tween start the day ready to learn. Together, come up with quick and nutritious breakfasts to make at home. Or encourage her to eat a healthy meal in the cafeteria with friends. *Note:* If she receives school lunch at a reduced price or for free, her breakfast will be reduced cost or free, too.

Walk this way

Let your middle grader know it's important to keep his eyes on his surroundings as he walks. He'll avoid serious injury from falling, running into objects, or stepping into traffic. Explain that he shouldn't play electronic games, listen to music, or text while walking—including to and from the bus stop or school.

Conserve resources

Ask your youngster to help your family be more environmentally friendly. Have her research ways you can conserve resources (switch to low-energy light bulbs, recycle more items, take reusable bags when you shop). Then, try to adopt one of her ideas each month.

Worth quoting

"Every strike brings me closer to the next home run." *Babe Ruth*

Just for fun

Q: Why did the boy put honey under his pillow?

A: He wanted to have sweet dreams.



Tween discipline that works

Your middle schooler wants more freedom. You want to keep him safe and set age-appropriate limits. How do you balance his need for independence with the need for rules and consequences? Try these strategies.

Let's review

Go over the rules you have in place and get his input. He'll be happier to comply if he has a say in them. Perhaps he thinks he should be able to go to friends' houses on school nights, and you agree to that for one night a week. Explain your reasons, and be clear you have the final word. Also, lay out consequences so he knows what will happen if he breaks the rules.

Expect to be tested

Tweens tend to push the limits to see how serious parents are and may argue to get out of consequences. Stay calm and on point ("Nevertheless, we agreed you wouldn't eat in your bedroom"). Stick to the consequence you set (having him wash his bedding to get rid of food



stains). He'll see he can't slide by and will be more likely to follow the rules in the future.

Reflect on actions

The goal of discipline is to teach your child good judgment. He can learn a lot by reflecting on his actions. Say he breaks a rule, like heading to a social outing without finishing his homework first. Ask what he *thought* would happen. Maybe he didn't think you'd notice. What happened instead? He has to miss an event this weekend as a result. How could he avoid this situation next time? 👍

Speak up!

Participating in class can help your tween get more value out of school and learn to express herself. Encourage her to contribute with these tips.

- **Find your zone.** Suggest that she participate in ways she feels comfortable with and then expand her "toolbox." She might start off commenting on assigned readings she enjoyed. Eventually, she may speak up when she agrees with someone's viewpoint or to offer a different one.
- **Mix it up.** Class-wide discussions aren't the only opportunity to participate. When your middle schooler works in smaller groups, she could ask and answer questions, make observations, or give opinions. These steps can build confidence for talking in front of the whole class. 👍



Real-world reading

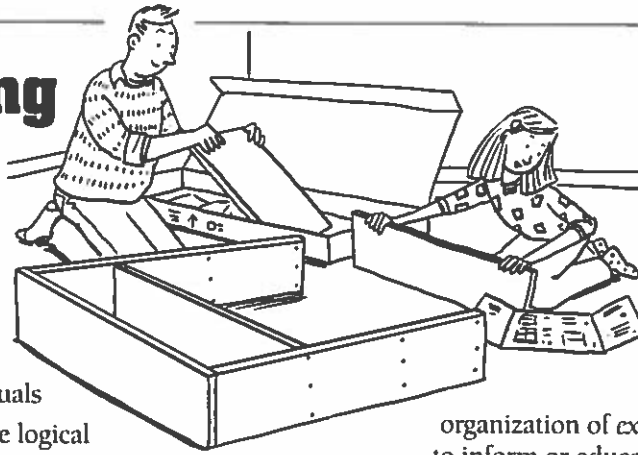
Nonfiction reading is a big part of everyday adult life—at work and home. To help your middle grader learn to pick out and analyze important information, encourage her to read more nonfiction texts now. Here are some easy ideas.

Follow a process

What: Recipes, game directions, how-to manuals

Why: These texts teach youngsters to navigate logical sequences of steps and identify key details.

How: Let your tween read and share directions as family members cook or play a game. Or have her read instructions



as you put together a bookcase or figure out how to operate a new phone or microwave.

Follow the facts

What: News articles, menus, travel guidebooks

Why: Your child will get familiar with the organization of *expository text*, which seeks to inform or educate readers.

How: Talk about news articles you read and what you learn, and inspire her to do the same. If you order carryout food, have her read menus and place the order. When you visit new places, ask her to scan guidebooks and share facts. She can play tour leader, suggesting sights and activities your family will enjoy. 👍

Notable notes

Good notes can help your tween remember what was taught in class, create study guides, and review for tests. Share these steps for being an excellent note taker.

1. Prepare beforehand. Your child will have an easier time keeping up with the teacher if he has read the assigned handouts or chapters. Why? He'll be familiar with the material and vocabulary.

2. Learn each teacher's style. To emphasize crucial material, one teacher may use hand gestures, while another may write phrases on the board. Your middle grader should write that information down and star or circle it.

3. Ask questions. If your child doesn't understand something, he could jot a question mark in the margin of his notes. Then, he can ask about it when the teacher invites questions. Most likely someone else has the same question and will be glad he spoke up. 👍



Q & A

Learning to have grit

Q I've heard that kids need "grit" to be successful. What is it, and how can I teach it to my 12-year-old?

A Grit involves perseverance, courage, and resilience—basically sticking with tasks or goals until you see them through. Having passion will help your child to develop grit, enabling her to stay with something when the going gets tough and to overcome problems along the way.

You can foster grit in your middle grader by explaining it and pointing out examples, such as a coworker who learned to read as an adult. Or bring home library books about famous people who persevered. For instance, Dr. Seuss had his first book rejected by 27 publishers before it was accepted.

Setting up a family challenge can give everyone a chance to be "gritty." Have each person choose something they want to do that might be difficult but is possible. The key? No one is allowed to quit! 👍



Parent to Parent

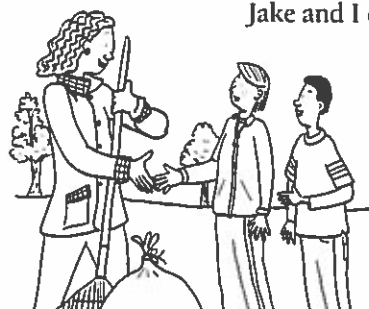
Get to know new friends

When my son was in elementary school, I always knew his friends. Once he got to middle school, he started hanging out with classmates I'd never heard of.

It worried me to let Jake spend time with kids I didn't know. I asked him to invite them over, and meeting them in person helped put me at ease and gave me a

way to connect faces with names. I asked for their phone numbers and their parents' numbers as well. That way, I could contact them if they were with Jake and I couldn't reach him. Calling the parents to say hello opened the door in case we ever need to get in touch.

I'm still getting to know Jake's pals. But at least I'm feeling more relaxed about his new middle school social scene. 👍



OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

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