



# ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIP IN MIDDLE SCHOOL: ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS

Middle school is a time of incredible growth—academically, socially, and emotionally. This resource is designed to help you stay connected and engaged in your child’s academic journey. Inside, you’ll find meaningful questions you can ask your child’s teachers to better understand their progress, challenges, and opportunities for growth.

Whether you're preparing for a conference, reaching out by email, or talking after school, these questions will help you support your middle schooler with confidence. Strong communication between home and school builds a powerful team around your child—and when families and schools partner, students thrive.

Build a powerful partnership with your child’s teacher by keeping up to date on...



What your child should know and be able to do by the end of the year



What your child is currently learning in class



How your child is performing relative to grade level standards



How you can support learning at home



How your child is doing socially



## ASK THE RIGHT QUESTIONS

The questions below are designed to dive deeper into your child's academic experience. They can help you find out what your child is currently learning, how they're performing compared to grade-level expectations, what they should know and be able to do by the end of the school year, and how you can support their learning at home. These conversations can give you a clearer picture of your child's progress and help you advocate for the support they need to succeed.

### ACADEMICS



- ✓ What are the most important skills or knowledge areas my child should master by the end of the school year in this subject?
- ✓ Can you walk me through the main topics or units my child is studying this quarter?
- ✓ Are there any key projects or assignments coming up that I should know about?
- ✓ Are there specific benchmarks or assessments used to measure progress toward those goals?
- ✓ Is my child meeting, exceeding, or falling behind grade-level standards in this subject?
- ✓ Can you share some examples of my child's work that show where they are doing well and where they need to grow?
- ✓ What's the best way to stay in touch with you about my child's progress?

### SUPPORTING LEARNING AT HOME

- ✓ What types of questions can I ask my child at home to help them reflect on what they're learning?
- ✓ What are some effective ways I can help my child practice or review what they're learning at home?
- ✓ How much time should my child be spending on homework or studying each week?
- ✓ Are there resources, websites, or tools I can use at home to help my child practice or review what they're learning?
- ✓ If my child is struggling, what's the best way for us to support improvement at home?



## BUILDING CONFIDENCE AND CONNECTION



- ✓ Is my child participating in class and staying engaged in the lessons?
- ✓ Does my child ask questions or seek help when needed?
- ✓ How does my child interact with peers and participate in class discussions or group work?
- ✓ Have you noticed any changes in my child's behavior, confidence, or engagement?
- ✓ Does my child seem comfortable asking for help or participating in class activities?
- ✓ Are there any signs that my child is feeling overwhelmed, anxious, or disengaged at school?

## PREPARING FOR HIGH SCHOOL

- ✓ What skills - academic and organizational - should my child focus on now to be ready for high school expectations?
- ✓ Are there specific classes or pathways in high school that my child should start thinking about?
- ✓ How does behavior, attendance, or academic effort in middle school affect high school opportunities?
- ✓ Is there a process for choosing high school classes or programs, and when does it start?
- ✓ What can I do at home to help my child feel more confident and prepared for the transition to high school?

Remember, you don't need to have all the answers—just showing up, asking questions, and staying curious makes a big difference. Your interest sends a powerful message to your child: that their learning matters and they're not alone in it. Together, families and educators can help students navigate middle school with confidence, curiosity, and a strong foundation for the future.

