





# Middle School Transition: It's Coming!



**Registration will be  
March 12-18  
during school with Mrs. Harris**



# **Top 3 Middle School Student Concerns**





# Lockers

- > Middle school staff will likely allow time for students to practice opening their lockers
- > Students are not expected to be experts right away!
- > Consider buying a lock for your child now
- > No one gets shoved in a locker!



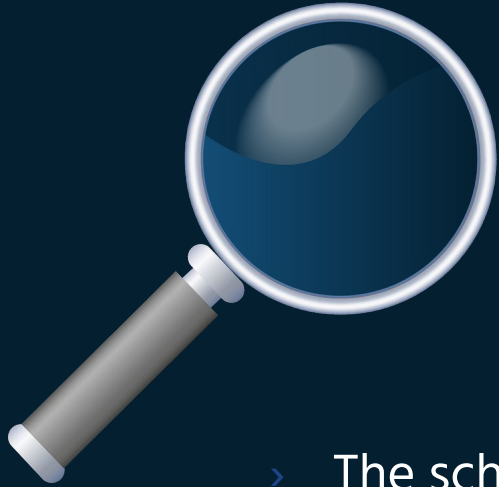
# Late

- › Teachers will be understanding first few weeks
- › Students will figure out when to go to their locker and what to take to each class
- › If student needs assistance he/she can ask teacher, counselor to help









# Getting Lost

- › The school will seem very big in the beginning
- › Students will tour 6th grade area at Cougar Camp
- › 6th grade classes are typically grouped together

The background features several overlapping, semi-transparent geometric shapes in various colors including green, blue, orange, pink, and red. These shapes are arranged in a way that creates a sense of depth and movement, with some appearing to recede into the dark blue background while others appear to come forward.


**What can you do?**

# Get to know the school

- › Make sure to attend Orientation
- › Check out your middle school's webpage
- › Talk to students and parents of students who attend
- › **Take attendance seriously!**

# Be Involved

- › Communicate with the School
- › Visit the school's website for updates about school events
  - › Attend as many events at the school as possible
  - › Talk to students and parents of students who attend

The background features a dark blue field with several overlapping, semi-transparent geometric shapes. On the left, there are shapes in shades of green, blue, orange, and pink. On the right, there are shapes in shades of green, blue, purple, and red. The shapes are layered, creating a sense of depth and movement.

**How can you help  
your student  
succeed?**

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**Get them  
organized**

# Before School Begins

- Organization at home
- Try different organization systems
  - calendar
  - white board
  - bulletin board
  - folders
  - sticky reminders
  - setting a schedule
- Put student in charge of task to gain responsibility
- Time Management

# During the School Year

- Look regularly at planners, backpacks, and binders regularly
- Let them do as much on their own as possible even if that means they fail sometimes
- Help them make a plan for their locker if they express frustration or are overwhelmed
  - When to go to their locker during the day
  - What to bring to each class
  - What to take home and bring back
  - Ways to help them organize their locker

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# Reinforce the Importance of Academics




# Before School Begins

- Help them master his/her basic math (add, subtract, multiply, and divide digits 0-10 without hesitation)
- Grammar basics
  - Practice writing over the summer (letters, journals)
- Make sure they READ, READ, READ!!!
- Academic camps

# During the School Year

- Plan for about 60 minutes of homework each night
  - Additional time for extra things
- Check their grades and assignments **OFTEN**
- If grades drop don't panic - Come up with a plan with the teacher and your student
- Your child will have several teachers
  - Different teaching styles
  - Diversity
    - Communication
    - Teaching strategies
    - Feedback procedures

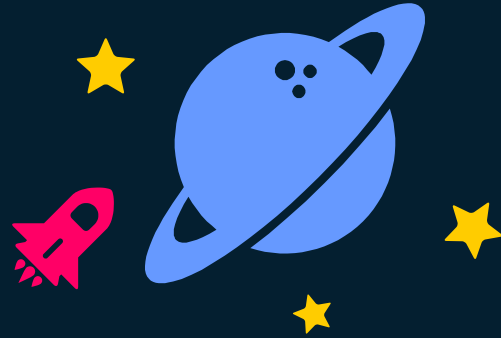
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**How can you help  
them succeed  
socially?**

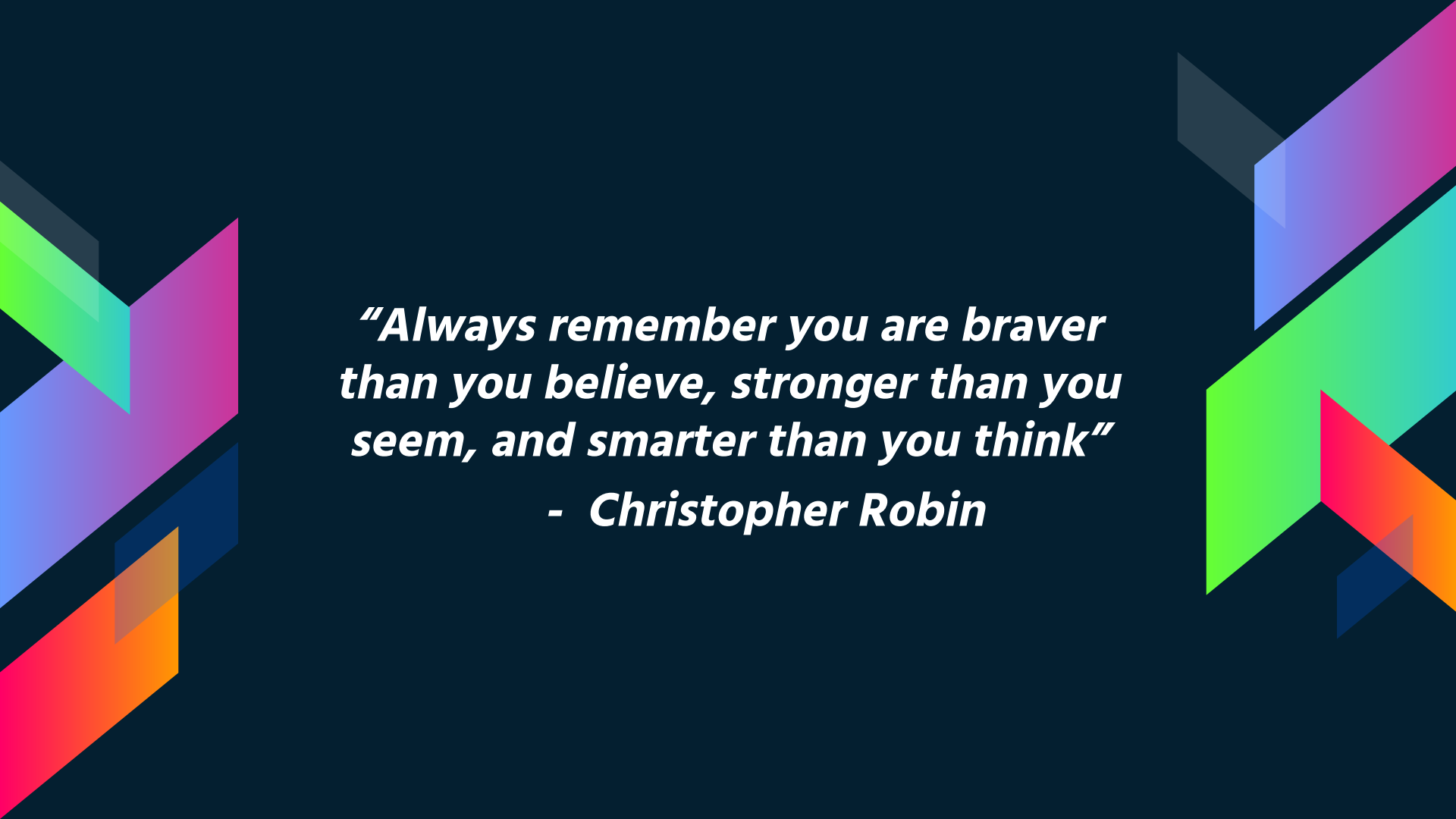
# Keep the lines of communication open

- › Help them navigate changes they can expect to see
- › Coaching through tough times
  - › e.g. what can you say or do if one of your friends wants to sit with someone else at lunch?
- › Bullying
  - › Communicate with teachers/admin

# Other Tips



- › Check-in often
- › Encourage them to try new things
- › Become knowledgeable about the needs and concerns of young adolescents
- › Show your child that you are in touch with the school
- › Maintain strong family connections with your student
- › Be alert to signs of depression or anxiety and SEEK HELP immediately



***“Always remember you are braver  
than you believe, stronger than you  
seem, and smarter than you think”  
- Christopher Robin***

# Resources

**“Middle Schooled: Parenting Tips and Reminders to Keep You Smiling”** Andrew E Mullen (2018)

**“Parenting a Teen Girl: A Crash Course on Conflict, Communication and Connection with Your Teenage Daughter”** Dr. Lucie Hemmen (2012)

**“The Teenage Brain: A Neuroscientist's Survival Guide to Raising Adolescents and Young Adults”** Dr. Frances E. Jensen (2015)

**“How to talk so Teens will Listen and Listen so Teens will Talk”** Adele Faber, Elaine Mazlish, HarperCollins (2006)



# THANKS!

**Any questions?**

You can email Mrs. Harris at [tsharris@wcpss.net](mailto:tsharris@wcpss.net)

Please visit our counseling webpage:

<http://wakelonschoolcounselor.weebly.com/>