

Korematsu Middle School
Helping Your Child Succeed in Middle School
Presented by Gail Simpson, Counselor

Session 1: Getting Organized

- A. Get the right stuff and keep it organized
 - 1. A good backpack, placed in the same place by the door everyday after school with lanyard attached.
 - 2. A 1 inch binder: Can put homework to be turned in in the clear outside front pocket on the binder so that student sees it when he takes his binder out at school. Place things to be turned in in the order of class periods.
 - 3. Dividers
 - 4. Loose leaf paper and graph paper
 - 5. A white eraser (works better than the pink ones)
 - 6. Staple remover
 - 7. Post its
 - 8. Pencils & Pencil sharpener (the dollar store ones are good)
 - 9. Pens
 - 10. A pencil case that clips into the rings of the binder
 - 11. Calculator – your student may need a special calculator once they get into high level math
- B. Supplies to keep at home
 - 1. Note cards for making flash cards
 - 2. Report folders
 - 3. Glue sticks
 - 4. Colored pencils
 - 5. White out
 - 6. A dictionary
 - 7. Highlighters
 - 8. A paper wall calendar: Student will transcribe assignments from their planners and/or class notes onto the calendar in the order in which they will do them. E.g., student has Math, Spanish, Science, and English homework one night and a History paper due in two weeks. The calendar can have M, Sc, E, and Sp, each on their own line. Encourage your student to do the harder assignments first when they are less tired. The bottom line of each day on the calendar is for projects. In this example, it might read “H (20 minutes, make outline)”. When each assignment or task is complete, the student highlights it. Your student can see all the work they have completed and you can commend them on their diligence in keeping up with assignments.
- C. Tips for students
 - 1. Meet your teachers, ask them for help when you need it.
 - 2. Get the phone/cell numbers of at least 3 students in each class. Call/text/message them when you are unsure about an assignment or how to complete the work.
 - 3. No electronics in the bedroom.
 - 4. No electronics while studying.
 - 5. 9pm lights out on a school night.
 - 6. Neatness counts in your work. It can be the difference between an A and a B if the teacher can read your work and tell that you put time and effort into it.
- D. Tips for Parents
 - 1. Middle school is a time for hands on guidance. We all want them to succeed on their

- own, but they do not yet know how. We have to teach them and help them to practice good habits.
2. Review homework assignments every day. Use their planner, PowerSchool, and individual teacher websites to determine assignments.
 3. Help your student divide up the steps in a project and map out when they will complete each step in order to be finished on time. The wall calendar helps with that.
 4. Encourage/enforce homework time at the same time and in the same quiet space near the parent/guardian each day.
 5. Check to see if homework was turned in, with your student and on PowerSchool. If the student forgot to turn in completed work, help them by emailing the teacher to let them know it was completed and will be turned in the next day. The teacher does not have to accept late work, but they might if it does not happen too often.
 6. Check the student's backpack for supplies and their lanyard.
 7. If help is needed, email the teacher. Teacher's emails are usually first initial followed by last name @wccusd.net. Most teacher's emails can be gotten from PowerSchool. If no response in two days, send the email again, cc'd to your student's counselor and Principal Burnham.
 8. Attend Back to School Night and any parent-teacher conferences that are available.

Session 2: Study Skills

To be presented on Thursday, January 29th 1:00pm Room 8