

# What to Expect in Middle School



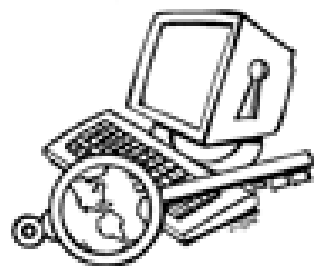
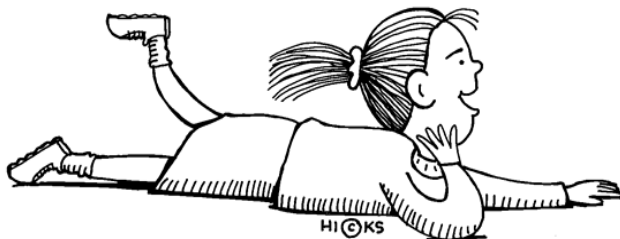
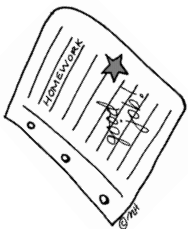
2016-2017





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<p>*Margaret Talkington School for Young Women Leaders is a school with Middle Schoolers through 12<sup>th</sup> graders. CEEB Code: 449310</p>	

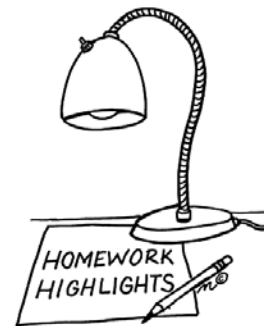
# What to Expect in Middle School

**Different Classes** – In middle school, you will change classrooms for each subject. One of the first things you will learn is where all your classes are and how long you have to get there. Finding your classes is not hard to do and you will be an “expert” in no time at all. The faculty will help you as you learn your way around the building.

**Homework** – You will probably have more homework in middle school than you did in elementary. Therefore, it is important to be organized and make sure you have plenty of time to get the work done.

## Tips for Academic Success -

- Use different sections of your notebook for each subject. Each section should be labeled with the subject and teacher’s name. This will help keep the information for each class organized and easy to locate.
- Use an assignment notebook. Take it to each class everyday and always write down your assignments and their due dates. Check your notebook when you get home to make sure all of your assignments have been completed.
- Ask questions! If you don’t understand an assignment, how can you possibly finish it at home by yourself? Usually, if you don’t understand, there are probably other students who feel the same way.
- Plan homework time every day. There will be something for you to finish, study, or look over almost everyday, so have a set time in your daily schedule for doing homework. During this time:
  - Find a quiet place to work.
  - Gather any supplies you need before you start working.
  - Ask family members not to disturb you. They can also take messages from your friends if they call while you are working.
- Check your backpack or notebook each night before you go to bed. Make sure you have all your homework assignments and any supplies you might need for the next day.



**Responsibility** – Since you are in middle school now, you will need to accept more responsibility in all aspects of your education.

- If you are absent, it will be up to you to ask your teachers for information and assignments you missed while you were gone.
- If you need tutoring, it will be up to you to make arrangements with your teacher and parents.
- It will be up to you to make sure your assignments are turned in on time.

# Student Activities



Middle school offers students the opportunity to participate in a variety of organizations, clubs, and activities. Through these different activities, you have the chance to find new interests, develop talents, and build strong friendships.

When you begin choosing activities, it is important to weigh all options and be selective about the choices you make. Achieving a balance between academic demands and extracurricular opportunities will make your middle school years rewarding.

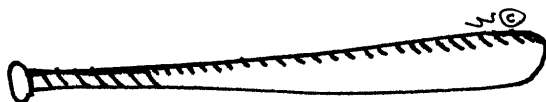
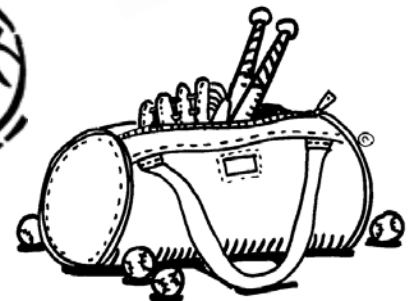
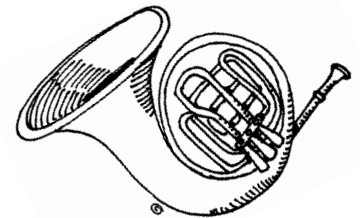
Also, remember that participation in school clubs and organizations is a privilege, not a right. In order to participate, you must:

- Maintain a passing grade in all subjects
- Have a good attendance record
- Have no discipline problems

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There are a variety of clubs and organizations in which you can participate. The opportunities will vary from grade to grade and from school to school, but some of them are:

- Student Council
- National Junior Honor Society
- Choir
- Band
- Orchestra
- Theatre
- Spirit Organizations
- Athletics
- Yearbook
- World Language Clubs
- Academic Clubs and Competitions



# Attendance

Good attendance will not guarantee you good grades. You are, however, pretty much guaranteed to get poor grades if you have poor attendance. Students must be in attendance at least 90% of the days the class is offered in order to receive credit for class. This attendance policy complies with state law.



**Leaving the Campus** – Students who leave campus for any reason during the school day must report to the office to check out. A parent or guardian must sign the student out before he/she leaves the campus. Upon returning to the campus, students must check in through the office and provide an excused absence note from doctor, court, etc.

**Tardies** – Students are tardy when they arrive late to school or when they are late to classes during the school day. Each school will implement its own individual tardy policy. For your convenience, the Lubbock ISD calendar is posted on the LISD webpage ([www.lubbockisd.org](http://www.lubbockisd.org)).

# Grading

**Homework** – Each student will have an average of one and one-half hours of homework per night in regular classes and should anticipate additional time requirement in Pre-AP courses.

**Progress Reports** – Progress Reports are sent home at the end of each three weeks' grading period. Please contact your student's campus for distribution process and date.

**Report Cards** – Report Cards will be sent home to parents at the end of each six weeks' grading period. Please contact your student's campus for distribution process and date.

**Gradebook Access** – In addition, parents have access to the LISD electronic gradebook via the district website. Email communication between parents and teachers is encouraged.

**Grade Point Average (GPA)** – GPA is calculated each semester by adding points for each earned grade and dividing by the number of grades. See chart below:

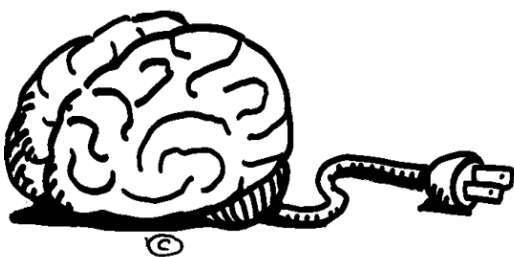
Numeric Grade	Achievement Level	Regular Point Value	Pre-AP Point Value
90-100	Outstanding	4.0	5.0
80-89	Good	3.0	4.0
75-79	Average	2.0	3.0
70-74	Weak	1.0	2.0
50-69	Unsatisfactory	0.0	0.0

**Honor Roll** – An honor roll will be determined by achieving a minimum of a 3.5 grade point average. Grade point averages will not be “rounded up”.

**Semester Course Averages** – Teachers average each six weeks’ grade to determine the final semester grade. Some campuses use a combination of six weeks’ average and semester test grade to determine the semester average. The semester average becomes the final semester grade.

**Yearly Course Averages** – Teachers average each six weeks’ grade and the semester test to determine the final semester grade. The yearly average becomes the average of the two semesters, and therefore, the final yearly grade.

**Courses Counting for High School Credit** – Students will have the opportunity to gain high school credit in middle school. The courses offered on the middle school campus include Algebra I Pre-AP and World Languages (formerly known as foreign language, taken in 8<sup>th</sup> grade).



In courses earning high school credit, a student will gain the credit based on passing each semester. If the first semester of a one-year course is failed, full credit may still be granted for the year if the second semester grade is high enough to make a passing grade when averaged with the first semester grade. If the first semester of a one-year course is passed, and the second semester is failed, credit is granted only for the first semester.

All grades earned in courses that count for high school credit will appear on a student’s high school transcript and will be used in computing the cumulative grade point average that determines class rank after entry to high school.



**Promotion** – To be promoted from one grade level to the next, a student shall attain an overall average of 70 or above for the year in all courses taken. In addition, students shall attain an average of 70 or above in three of the following required subjects: language arts, reading (6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grade), mathematics, social studies, and science. Students must also meet attendance requirement.



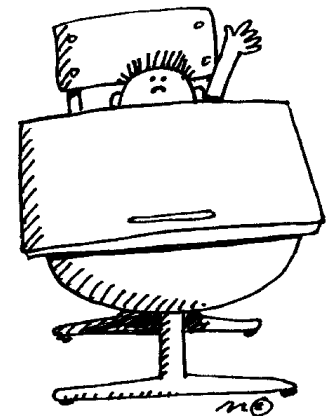
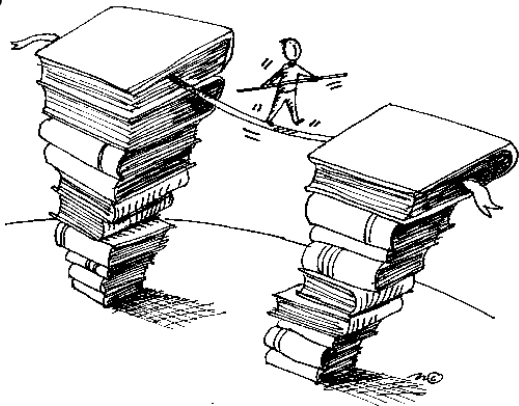
The possible consequences of failing required subjects include summer school, repeating the course(s), or retention.

## Testing

**Academic Assessment** – Test preparation is vital to academic success. It is equally important to prepare for quizzes, unit tests, six weeks' assessments, and semester exams. Students will maximize their potential for academic achievement by employing the following strategies:

- Take complete and thorough notes
- Plan adequate time for test review
- Utilize time and check answers
- Review notes periodically

**STAAR** – Success on the STAAR is directly related to regular attendance, classroom preparation, and mastery of effective study skills



### Focus on the Future

The State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) test includes 5 end-of-course assessments. A student must meet the end-of-course testing requirements, as well as pass their classes, in order to earn a high school diploma.

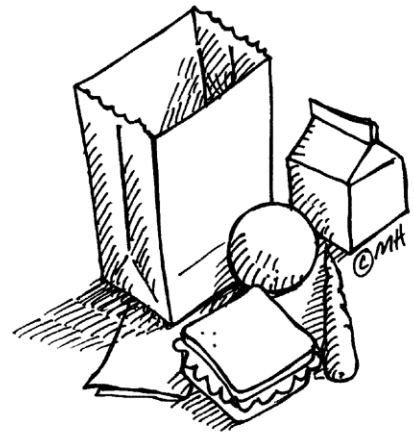
# Student Services

**Health Services** – Each school has a qualified registered nurse to administer to students' health needs and to maintain health records. If a student becomes ill or injured during the school day, the teacher allows the student to report to the clinic. If the illness or injury is such that the student requires more professional attention, the nurse, in conjunction with the office, contacts the parent. Parents should file the necessary documentation with the school nurse before medication can be properly dispensed. All medication should be registered through the nurse's office.

**Counselors** – Counseling services are available for every student in the school. These services include assistance with personal and social concerns, academic concerns, and college and career planning and readiness.

**Cafeteria** – All students must eat in the cafeteria. Students may bring their lunch or purchase a tray lunch or a la carte items in the cafeteria.

★ Outside food may not be provided for student groups; however, parents may bring food for their student only.



**Restrooms** – Student restrooms are available before and after school, between class periods, and at the beginning or end of the lunch period.

**Telephones** – Emergency messages and deliveries should be left in the office. Students are called out of class only in an emergency. During the school day, students may use the office telephone with permission of the office staff only in cases of an emergency. In regard to cell phone usage, students should follow district and campus policy.

**Books** – Students are responsible for textbooks and library books they use. Fines are assessed for writing in books, broken backs, torn pages, etc., and therefore, students should take good care of their books. Book covers are provided by campus staff. A student should clearly write his/her name in each textbook when it is issued and should never loan a book to another student or borrow books which belong to another student.

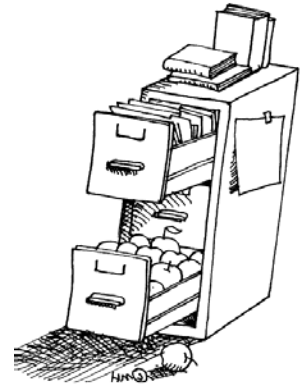
**Library** – Each middle school has its own library featuring books, magazines, research material, and computer technology available for student use.

**Tutorials** – Tutorial sessions are available for students who need to receive individual instruction, to make up tests or assignments, and to receive help with homework or classwork.

## Campus Safety

**School Rules** – In order to have a safe, inviting place for students to come and learn, schools need to have rules. While rules vary from school to school, no school will allow weapons, drugs, violence, smoking, alcohol, or bullying.

★ All students need to take an active role in making their school a safe place where students want to come and learn. If you ever feel threatened, or if you become aware of a situation that may put you or someone else at risk, please tell a teacher, principal, or counselor immediately.



**Texas Open Records Act** – Under the Texas Open Records Act, parental permission is required for directory information (child’s address, phone number, and home school) to be released by LISD for private and commercial use. Parents have the right to keep this information confidential. If parents do not want this information released, they are to check the appropriate box on the enrollment form.

**Dress Code** – The district’s dress code is established in an effort to provide a school environment that is conducive to learning. It also addresses safety concerns for students as well as instilling real-world expectations for the student population. Students shall be dressed in a manner that is clean and neat and that is not a health or safety hazard to themselves or others. The district prohibits any clothing or grooming that, in the principal’s judgment, may reasonably be expected to cause disruption of or interference with normal school operations.



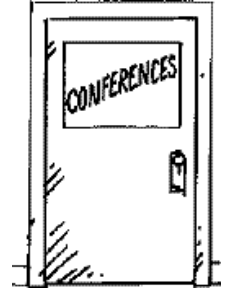
**Electronic Devices** – The use of cell phones on campus is only allowed during lunch and before and after school. In the event that such devices need to be used for an approved instructional activity, students may use paging devices or cellular phones with teacher and principal permission. The school cannot be held responsible for lost or stolen devices.

**Closed Campus** – Once students arrive at school, they are to remain on campus until school is dismissed for the day. They are not permitted to go off campus in the morning or during lunch.

# Class Schedule

**Sixth Grade Schedule** – All students in the sixth grade will take regular or Pre-AP English Language Arts and Reading (ELAR), mathematics, science, social studies, fine arts, and electives.

**Seventh Grade Schedule** – All students in the seventh grade will take ELAR regular or Pre-AP, mathematics regular or Pre-AP, science regular or Pre-AP, social studies regular or Pre-AP, and electives.



**Eighth Grade Schedule** – All students in the eighth grade will take ELAR regular or Pre-AP, mathematics or Algebra I Pre-AP, science regular or Pre-AP, social studies regular or Pre-AP, and electives.

**Electives** – Students should refer to the middle school they will be attending to obtain a list of the electives that will be offered at that school. A course description of each class can be found in the **Middle School Course Offerings Booklet**.

**Physical Education and Athletics** – Physical education and athletics are considered electives. Students must have completed two years of physical education or athletics by the end of the eighth grade. Students should refer to the **Middle School Course Offerings Booklet** for a description of the various athletic programs.

**Pre-Advanced Placement Courses** – Students are encouraged to take Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre-AP) courses in all three middle school grades. Pre-AP courses include increased rigor in their curriculum, have higher expectations for course work and class participation, and offer the best preparation for Advanced Placement courses offered in high school. They are considered college-preparatory courses.

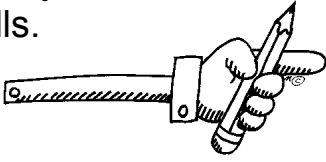


## College & Career Planning

Middle school is the time to decide what you like to do and who you want to be. Planning ahead can help you decide what course options and programs are right for you in high school and how you can prepare for college and beyond.

★ Use the college and career checklist to plan yearly.

**Exploring Careers** - Every sixth and seventh grader will use career exploration tools to assist in career exploration and course planning. Interest profiles and other surveys will assist students in identifying careers that match their interests and skills.



## What's Next?

**The start of high school is an exciting time!**

In the 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grades, you will have many opportunities:

- You will have more courses from which to choose.
- You will have a chance to take part in a variety of extracurricular activities.
- You will have more independence and more responsibility.
- You will have the chance to specifically plan for college and/or a career.
- You will have the chance to meet new classmates and develop new friendships.

## Graduation Plans

**Diploma Options** – Students must graduate with one of the following graduation plans:

- Foundation
- Foundation plus Endorsement

★ In order to receive the distinguished level, a student must complete the foundation plus endorsement plan along with completing Algebra II as one of the math requirements.



## Other Credit Earning Opportunities

- Summer School
- LISD Online
- Credit by Exam
- TTU Outreach & Distance Education



## Diploma Requirements for 2018 and Later Graduates

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SUBJECT	FOUNDATION	FOUNDATION PLUS ENDORSEMENT
<b>English</b>	<b>4</b> English 1, 2, 3, and Adv. English course	<b>4</b> English 1, 2, 3, and Adv. English course
<b>Math</b>	<b>3</b> Algebra I, Geometry, and a third adv. math course	<b>4</b> Algebra I, Geometry, Financial Mathematics, or Algebra II and one additional state approved credit in math
<b>Science</b>	<b>2</b> Biology, lab science, and one adv. science course	<b>4</b> Biology, lab science, and two adv. science courses
<b>Social Studies &amp; Economics</b>	<b>3</b> World Geography or World History, U. S. History, and Government & Economics	<b>3</b> World Geography or World History, U. S. History, and Government & Economics
<b>World Languages</b>	<b>2</b> from same language	<b>2</b> from same language
<b>Physical Education</b>	<b>1</b> Can substitute CA, ROTC, Cheerleading, Pep Squad, Gymnastics, or Marching Band	<b>1</b> Can substitute CA, ROTC, Cheerleading, Pep Squad, Gymnastics, or Marching Band
<b>Fine Arts</b>	<b>1</b> Credit must be from a course in Art, Music, Theatre, Dance, Principles and Elements of Floral Design, or 3-D Graphic Modeling and Animation	<b>1</b> Credit must be from a course in Art, Music, Theatre, Dance, Principles and Elements of Floral Design, or 3-D Graphic Modeling and Animation
<b>Elective courses</b>	<b>7.0</b> (State approved elective credits)	<b>6.0</b> (State approved elective credits)
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>26</b>

★ All incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade students are automatically placed on the Foundation plus Endorsement graduation plan; not allowed to move to Foundation plan until after completion of sophomore year

# Beyond High School

## Me? Think about college? Now?

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Yes, you. Yes, now. This doesn't mean that you need to know now what you want to do "when you grow up." It's OK not to know yet. In fact, you will want to keep your options wide open.

- Compared with those who don't continue their education beyond high school, people who go to college:
  - Have a wider range of job possibilities and options.
  - Make better health choices.
  - Develop lifelong learning skills.
  - Earn about 66% more money.
  - Are in a better position to help their families and communities.
  
- Even if you're not sure what your future holds, prepare as if you'll be going to college. What you learn will help you get the very most from life.

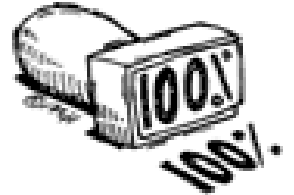
### ★ "College" means

- Public and private four-year colleges and universities
- Two-year community colleges and junior colleges
- Business schools
- Technical schools
- Military training



# Tips for Parents

- Work together with your child to develop good study habits.
- Encourage a healthy lifestyle in your home.
- Stay involved in every aspect of your child's life.
- Support campus intervention plans for your child.
- Look for opportunities to praise good grades and extra effort.
- Allow your child to learn independence and gain confidence.
- Make school a top priority.
- Check the school calendar carefully to assure your child's attendance on testing dates.





# Resources

# ASSIGNMENTS

<b>TODAY'S DATE:</b>		
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENT</b>	<b>DUE DATE</b>
<b>MATH</b>		
<b>ENGLISH</b>		
<b>SCIENCE</b>		
<b>HISTORY</b>		
<b>OTHER</b>		
<b>OTHER</b>		
<b>TESTS OR LONG-TERM PROJECTS</b>		
<b>REMINDERS</b>	<b>PARENT/TEACHER NOTES</b>	
<b>TEACHER INITIAL:</b>	<b>PARENT SIGNATURE:</b>	

# Middle School College and Career Preparatory Checklists

## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Set goals for middle school.
- Take the most challenging English, math, science, and social studies classes you can handle.
- Add classes in art, computers, or world language, if you can.
- Do assignments for extra credit.
- Focus on learning as much as you can and mastering key concepts.
- Ask questions and participate in class.
- Improve or continue good study habits.
- Get involved in school and community activities, like spelling bees, science fairs, and clubs.
- Think about activities and subjects that interest you.
- Take an interest inventory.
- Explore jobs and careers.
- Talk to family members, teachers, counselors, and friends about your dreams and plans.

## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

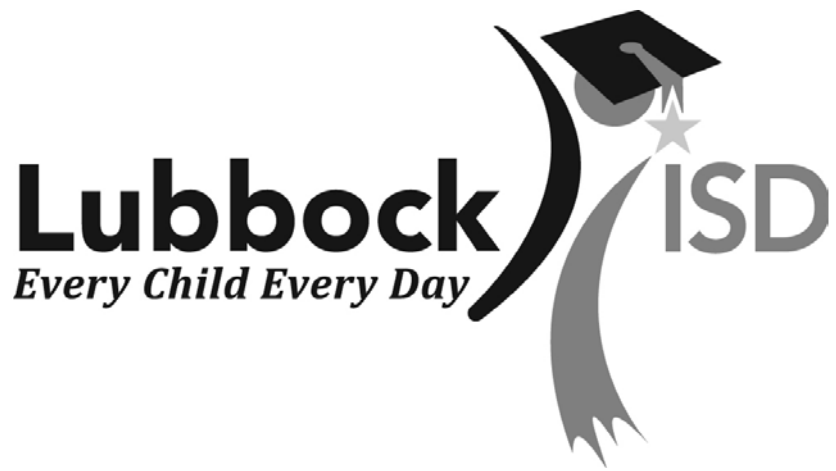
- Set goals for middle school, or revise old goals.
- Take the most challenging English, math, science, and social studies classes you can handle.
- Add classes in art, computers, or world language, if you can.
- Do assignments for extra credit.
- Focus on learning as much as you can and mastering key concepts.
- Ask questions and participate in class.
- Improve or continue good study habits.
- Get involved in school and community activities.
- Identify activities and subjects that interest you.
- If you haven't already, take an interest inventory.
- Explore jobs and careers.
- Keep talking to others about your dreams and plans.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

- Take the most challenging English, math, science, and social studies classes you can handle.
- Take classes in art, computers or world language, if you can.
- Do assignments for extra credit.
- Focus on learning as much as you can and mastering key concepts (colleges will see your grades for high school classes).
- Ask questions and participate in class.
- Improve or continue good study habits.
- Get involved in school and community activities.
- Revisit/retake an interest inventory (your interests may change over time, and your results may be different than before).
- Start thinking about goals for high school.
- If you are able to choose your high school, start visiting local schools to compare your options.
- Explore jobs and careers.
- Keep talking to others about your dreams and plans.







This booklet was produced by the  
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