

MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENT NEWSLETTER

TIPS, IDEAS, AND ADVICE FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENTS

CONVERSATION PROMPTS

Here are some questions to ask your child this month.

- ▶ What is one book you have read recently that you really enjoyed?
- ▶ What is one book you have read that you did not like?
- ▶ What is a topic you enjoy reading about?
- ▶ How often do you visit the library at school, and what do you usually use it for?



GETTING TO KNOW YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

April is National Library Month! Providing everything from digital literacy programming to internet access and professional training programs, libraries are an invaluable community resource for adults, children, and teens. The best part—everything is free!

How well does your middle schooler know the local library? Here are some tips for taking full advantage of everything it has to offer:

- ▶ The first step is to obtain a library card for both you and your student. Library cards are free and give you full access to all library materials and services.
- ▶ Libraries help promote learning year-round. They don't close for the summer, or over holiday breaks. Don't forget about the library when your teen is looking for something to do over the summer.
- ▶ Look online, or ask the librarian for a monthly programming schedule. Libraries often offer movie nights, crafts, coding classes, and other teen programming—all for free. Go through the schedule with your student and ask them whether anything interests them.
- ▶ Libraries offer more than just books! They also have music, magazines, newspapers, movies, and even audiobooks available for check-out. Some also offer gaming and meeting spaces just for teens and young adults.

SUPPORTING RELUCTANT READERS

Reading is a critical part of academic success, but not every student is a strong reader or enjoys reading for fun. If your middle schooler isn't an enthusiastic reader, here's how you can help make it more enjoyable.

- ▶ Explain to your child that reading is a way to pursue personal interests. Encourage them to find books on topics that are of interest to them.
- ▶ Involve your child in activities that require reading, such as following a recipe, using a set of written instructions to assemble an item, or completing a crossword puzzle.
- ▶ Encourage your child to read more than just standard books. Some middle schoolers find more enjoyment in comic books, magazines, graphic novels, and even newspapers—and that's okay. Developing and nurturing a love of reading is what is most important.

CHARACTER MATTERS: RESPONSIBILITY

Help your child understand that responsibility is doing what you say you're going to do—even when it's not easy. Ask your child if they know why it's important to be responsible.

Give your child opportunities to act responsibly. Give them chores to do, rules to follow, and tasks to complete. When using the library, students have a responsibility to respect the library rules, to take care of the materials that they check out, and to return them on time.

Whenever possible, let your child know how much you appreciate being able to count on them.

CAREER CORNER

The job outlook for librarians and media specialists continues to grow. Becoming a librarian requires a bachelor's degree in any area, followed by a Master's degree in library sciences. Librarians typically work in public libraries, schools, law and medical libraries, and government offices.

FAMILY FUN: LIBRARY SCAVENGER HUNT

If you are looking for a fun way to help your student become more familiar with everything your local library offers, try helping them organize a library scavenger hunt for the family to do together.

- ▶ Have your student type or write a list of items to find or tasks to complete at your library. Some ideas include finding a book on a specific topic, a book by a specific author, a specific newspaper or magazine, or taking a selfie taken at the reference desk.
- ▶ Give the list to everyone in your family who is participating, and set a timer for 30 minutes. Then work through the list together or split into teams to see if you can beat the time.
- ▶ As always, make sure to remind your family members to observe library rules during the hunt.

