

PARENTS: How to get off to a good start!

The transition from elementary to middle school can be a challenging time for both students and parents. Much of the adjustment anxiety can come from not knowing what to expect and where to get help when you need it. We hope this guide will answer many of your questions and help you feel more comfortable through this exciting, yet difficult transition.

Parents can tremendously increase the chances of a successful transition if they follow a number of important suggestions.



1. Attend Orientation Day in August before school starts and Back to School Night in September.
2. Make sure your child understands parent and teacher expectations.
3. Teach your child the skills needed to be successful.
4. Form a partnership with each of your child's teachers.
5. Be proactive by keeping informed and involved.
6. Use the SDUHSD AERIES Portal. The AERIES Portal allows parents to access their child's class schedule, grades and period-by-period attendance via the Internet. (Information to set up a student account is provided at the beginning of the school year. Contact the Counseling Office if you do not receive the letter.)

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Expectations

Parent Expectations

Prior to the first day of school, sit down and talk with your child about what lies ahead. Talking about their fears and anxieties helps children to deal with their emotions and handle stress in a positive way. Explain to your child your expectations of him/her as a successful student, allowing your child to voice his/her ideas and opinions. Although your child may not like or agree with your expectations, taking the time to explain your reasons will help him/her to feel validated. Tell your child you will be working with him/her on a daily basis until you are sure he/she has learned the skills necessary to be successful in middle school.

Teacher Expectations

The first week of school, review with your child the rules, procedures and expectations of all six classes outlined on each teacher's syllabus or website. Some teachers also provide helpful hints on what students and parents can do to ensure success. Read all information with your child and answer any questions. If you are unsure about a policy, attending **Back To School Night** is the very best way to become familiar with teacher expectations.

Attend Important Events

Orientation Day is a great time for your child to get to know the EW staff, students and school campus. Students take a tour of the school and have the opportunity to ask 8th grade students questions. Students are much more likely to feel comfortable the first day of school if they've attended Orientation Day.

Back to School Night is a must for parents who want to make sure their child has a successful transition to EWMS. Attending Back to School Night shows your child you want to become acquainted with his/her teachers and work as a team with them. Make a list of questions to ask each teacher. Include these important questions:

1. How should my child get the homework when he/she is absent?
2. What is the best way to follow up on my child to make sure he/she is getting all homework turned in?
3. What is the best way to communicate with you?
4. How do you require students to organize their work?
5. What is your policy on late work?
6. What can we do as parents to make sure our child is successful?
7. How can I find out how my child is doing in your class?



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Parents as Partners



At EWMS, we believe that students have a better chance of reaching their potential if parents and teachers work together as partners in the learning process. Although it is the primary responsibility of the teacher to teach the curriculum, parents can play a key role to ensure mastery. The teacher can also help support parents in their role of teaching self-advocacy and study skills. This partnership can be compromised if the parent decides on a course of action without getting the teacher's perspective first. You can empathetically respond to your child's feelings while knowing that more information may be needed to get a complete picture of the situation. If students know that parents and teachers are working together, they are more likely to respond positively to direction.

Please read the FAQs (Frequently asked questions) on the counseling home page for more information.

Stay Informed And Involved

It is important for both students and parents to know what's happening at EWMS. The best way to stay informed is through the Earl Warren website. Also, receiving the weekly e-newsletter the Seahawk News will ensure that you don't miss an important event or deadline. The website also provides other important information such as school rules and policies, and a school calendar.

Parents who are actively involved in their child's education and/or extracurricular activities have children who are more likely to be academically successful. Teaching your child the skills needed to be successful is a major step in that direction. However, there are also opportunities to volunteer at EW. Parents have repeatedly said that volunteering helps them stay in the loop and feel more a part of their child's life. There are numerous opportunities to volunteer at EW. While most are during the school day, there are times that parent help is needed during evening events. Contact the EW PTSA volunteer coordinator for more information.