

October 2017

I.S. 303 Parent Coordinator Newsletter



Ms. Barrow, Parent Coordinator

Important Upcoming Dates:

Monday, October 2nd , - Anti-bullying and above the Influence Assembly. All staff and students encouraged to wear blue shirts.

Monday, October 23rd , - Monthly SLT meeting 4:30 -5:30, PTA meeting and our Halloween Dance 5:30 to 7:30

Wednesday, October 25th - High school Application Assembly

Friday, October 27th - Red Ribbon week Celebration. Red Ribbons will be distributed to all staff and students.

Saturday, October 28th - Specialized High School Test for 8th grade students.

Monday, October 31st , - Our Cake sale. Please donate a cake.



Parent to Parent Work your way to success

My son Blake was surprised and disappointed when he auditioned for the seventh-grade band and wasn't placed in the highest level. Until then, he had done well at whatever he tried. He wasn't prepared to handle it when something didn't come easily .

I explained that it was okay to struggle - and in fact, it was a normal part of life. I shared stories of times I've had to work to get better. In my first job, I told him, I messed up a few customers' orders, so the manager had a review the steps with me for a week.

I encouraged Blake to see his trumpet playing as a work in progress. He brainstormed ways he could improve a little at a time. Then, he taped a note to his music stand that says. "Aim for progress, not perfection." He has been practicing extra each day, working on the parts that give him trouble- and on his perseverance.

Dealing with Cyberbullying

The digital world has opened up a whole new realm for bullying. Help your middle grader stay safe with this advice.

1. Explain that what may seem like common online behavior can be cyberbullying. If friends post or share embarrassing photos or videos of others, classmate spread rumors on cell phones, or peers send hurtful messages via social media, that's crossing the line. If done purposely and repeatedly, it's considered cyberbullying.
2. point out that what happens on line may have serious, real-life consequences. A humiliating photo gone viral could cause the victim to stay away from friends or hurt himself. And the bully can get into trouble at home, at school, or even with the law.
3. Go over the rules. Your middle grader should avoid doing or saying anything online that he wouldn't do or say in person. Encourage him to think about how someone might feel before he texts or posts.
4. Tell your teen not to respond to a bully. It may make the situation worse. Have him save, print, or take a screen shot of the post to keep a record of what happened. Then, he should block the sender and tell you what happened so you can decide what to do, such as notifying your internet service provider or the school.


STEM at home

You don't have to be a scientist to foster a love of STEM in your middle grader. Share these quick-hit ideas for exploring STEM at home.

Science. Play with sound by turning a straw into a musical instrument. Let your child experiment with ways to create vibrations-and thus produce noise. For instance, she can make a "flute" by poking holes in a straw, or an "oboe" by flattening one end of a straw and cutting it into a point.

Technology. Make a stop-motion movie. Suggest that your tween snap a series of photos of an object, moving the item slightly each time. Then, she could upload and string the photos together to create the illusion that the object is moving.

Engineering. Piece together a "marble trampoline" with household items. Have your child come up with different materials to use for a ramp and a "bouncy" target. The goal? For her to send a marble down the chute so it bounces off the "trampoline."


Math. How would an object look if it were suddenly much larger or smaller? Ask your middle grader to measure an eraser or a sneaker. Then, using graph paper and what she's learning about ratio and proportion, she can draw the same item scaled up or down by 1, 5, or 10 times. 



Help wanted

When your child is stumped about a concept or a homework problem, teachers want to help. Plus, asking for assistance shows that your tween cares about her work. Encourage her to seek help confidently with these tips.

*** When to get help:** Her question may have an easy-to-find answer. Suggest that she check her textbook and notes or call a classmate. If that doesn't work, she should approach her teacher.

*** How to ask:** Your child might wait until the teacher is free and say, "I'm having trouble with my essay thesis. Can you help me?" Or if the question pops up after school, she could email, "I don't understand why I got this algebra problem wrong. When is a good time to stop by?" 



Conferences: A good choice

Q - Now that my oldest child is in middle school, do I really need to go to her parent-teacher conference?

A - It's a good idea to attend parent-teacher conference regardless of your student's age. going to them sends her a clear signal that you're interested in her education.

Knowing that you're paying attention can inspire her to give her best effort. Plus, teacher will share helpful insight about your child, from her work habits to her social life.

Before you go, see if your tween wants you to bring up specific topics. Also, look over her graded papers. That way, you'll pinpoint anything you want to discuss, such as the math she's working on or her progress in English.

Finally, consider any changes at home that her teacher should know about (a military deployment or a change in marital status, for example).

Ms. M Barrows

IS 303 Parent Coordinator

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Location: Room 120

Pone: 1718-996-0100 ext 1202

E-Mail: MBarrows@schools.nyc.gov

