

NEXT STOP

MIDDLE SCHOOL MIDDLE SCHOOL MIDDLE SCHOOL

Ringgold Middle School

Moving Up To Middle School A Guide to Middle School Transition

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This guide was adapted from an Educators Resource Guide (*Packin' Up...*), Office of Counseling and Student Services, WCPSS, North Carolina.

Dear Parent:

The transition from elementary to middle school is often an exciting, yet nerve-racking time for students. Anxiety can be a normal feeling during this transition. Preparing your student for this transition is very important and helpful.

- **Address Fears** – Listen to your child's concerns and fears. Talk about your own fears you had at their age and how you handled it.
- **Focus on the Positives** – New friends, teachers, and new opportunities. (Sports, Art, Band, Drama/Chorus, Clubs, Gifted Classes)
- **Attend School Events** – Take advantage of events/parent meetings, academic Nights
- **Reach Out for Support** – If your student is experiencing high levels of anxiety about the upcoming transition, use all your available resources such as books, internet, family, friends, school counselors, and teachers.
- **Stay Connected** – Stay connected to your child, his/her friends, and the school.

The best case scenario would be that each rising 6th grader feels prepared for middle school. This transition guide was created to enhance students' comfort level with this change by exposing them to some of the aspects of Ringgold Middle School.

Please review this packet thoroughly. This packet contains:

**Calendar 2023-2024 - Parent Portal Form-Middle School Matters
brochure-General Information-emails-standards-Parent Survey**

Please feel free to contact the school if you need additional information or assistance.

Sincerely,

Ringgold Middle School Administration and Sixth Grade Teachers

General Information

Follow us on Social Media for events/meetings/ and other school information

The transition to middle school can be challenging for students due to differences in middle and elementary school settings. This section will provide general information about the functioning of the middle school.

Who's Who in Middle School?

In addition to their teachers, students may notice when they get to the middle school that there are several adults around. However, they may not always be sure what those adults do and who to ask for help.

Administration –Shelley Pritchard (spritchard@catoosa.k12.ga.us) is the Principal at Ringgold Middle School. Our Assistant Principals are Barrett Blankenship (bblankenship@catoosa.k12.ga.us) and Kim Mullins (kmullins@catoosa.k12.ga.us). Our administrators are “hands-on” and are in the classroom on a daily basis.

School Counselors – We have two school counselors at Ringgold Middle School.

- Kelseigh Garrett kgarrett.rms@catoosa.k12.ga.us
- Laura Ogas logas.rms@catoosa.k12.ga.us

One very important thing for students to understand is that their middle school counselors are there to help them, just like their elementary counselors. The counselors' offices are located beside the Main Office. The counselors are not administrators and are not responsible for disciplinary actions.

Office Staff

- Office- This office is where visitors sign-in when they come into the building and where you would come to sign-out your student if they need to leave early or arrive late.
 - o Receptionist – Lynn Thomas lthomas.rms@catoosa.k12.ga.us
 - o Administrative Assistant – Myra Owen (mowen.rms@catoosa.k12.ga.us) available in summer
 - o Administrative Assistant- Sandra Parnell sparnell.rms@catoosa.k12.ga.us
 - o Bookkeeper – Patty Tittle (ptittle.rms@catoosa.k12.ga.us)
 - o Registrar – Dawn Payne (dpayne.rms@catoosa.k12.ga.us)

School Nurses – Holly Howell (hhowell.rms@catoosa.k12.ga.us) Jenny Boyd (jboyd.rms@catoosa.k12.ga.us) are currently our school nurses.

School Resource Office (SRO) – The SRO for Ringgold Middle School is Deputy Meredith Sisk (msisk@catoosa.k12.ga.us). Her presence on campus can be intimidating if students are unaware of

the role the resource officer plays within the school. Deputy Sisk is not a security guard, but a Catoosa County deputy. She is on campus to maintain student safety. .

School Social Worker – The Social Worker for Ringgold Middle School is Dale Wallace (dwallace@catoosa.k12.ga.us).

Academic Coach – Lonna Henriquez (lhenriquez.rms@catoosa.k12.ga.us) is the Academic Coach for Ringgold Middle School. She works with students and teachers to improve learning opportunities for students.

Parent Involvement Coordinator (PIC) – Amy Blankenship (ablankenship.rms@catoosa.k12.ga.us) is the PIC for Ringgold Middle School. The PIC provides assistance in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners. She coordinates the volunteer program and seeks to involve parents of all demographics as volunteers. Her office is located in the Family Resource Center.

Cafeteria Manager – Marilyn Sellers (msellers.rms@catoosa.k12.ga.us) is the Cafeteria Manager for Ringgold Middle School.

Cafeteria Bookkeeper – Marcia Craig (mcraig.rms@catoosa.k12.ga.us) is the Cafeteria Bookkeeper for Ringgold Middle School.

Required Courses

Ringgold Middle School requires each regular education student to take Language Arts, Social Studies, Math, and Science. With the exception of Band Students & Drama, students also have four additional Connections classes (one each nine-week period).

Day-to-day Specifics

Students in middle school have to deal with class changes, bathroom breaks, and a variety of other transitional activities.

****What Does a Day Look Like at Ringgold Middle School?**

Block	Time	6 th	Time	7 th	Time	8 th
1 st (75 min)	8:00 -9:15	Academics I	8:00 -9:15	Academics I	8:00 -9:15	Academics I
2 nd (70 min)	9:15 -10:25	Academics II	9:15 -10:25	Connections	9:15 -10:25	Academics II
3 rd (70 min)	10:25 -12:05	Academics III 10:55-12:05 Lunch 10:30-10:55 (Connections help with lunch)	10:25 -12:05	Academics II 10:25-11:00 11:30-12:05 Lunch 11:00-11:25 (Connections help with lunch)	10:25 -12:05	Academics III 10:25-11:35 Lunch 11:40-12:05 (Connections help with lunch)
4 th (70 min)	12:05 -1:15	Connections	12:05 -1:15	Academics III	12:05 -1:15	Academics IV
5 th (70 min)	1:15 -2:25	Academics IV	1:15 -2:25	Academics IV	1:15 -2:25	Connections

6 th (55 min)	2:25 -3:20	ELT Tier 2 Tier 3	2:25 -3:20	ELT Tier 2 Tier 3	2:25 -3:20	ELT Tier 2 Tier 3
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Lunch Prices

- Student Breakfast - \$1.80 (Reduced Price - \$.30)
- Student Lunch - \$2.85 (Reduced Price - \$.40)

****Lunch prices are subject to change before the new school year begins****

Catoosa County Schools Child Nutrition Departments offers the On-Line Prepay System. This payment option will not replace cash and check payments, but is an additional payment option for your convenience. Go to www.LunchPrePay.com to set up your child's account. You will need your

child's Student ID number to set up an account. If you do not know your student's ID number, you can contact the cafeteria bookkeeper. (cevans.rms@catoosa.k12.ga.us)

Drop-Off and Pick-Up

If you bring your sixth grade student to school each day, Sixth graders who arrive before 7:50 will report to the **Auxiliary Gym**, while the 7th and 8th go to the main Gym. You will also need to **pick up your sixth grade student in front of the school in the line in front of the office at the end of the school day**. Students who are not picked up before 3:45 will need to be picked up in front of the school.

Transition Between Classes

Transition time between classes is short, approximately five minutes. However, this is plenty of time as long as students do not continuously stop in the halls and engage in long conversations with friends.

ELT (Extra Learning Time) – ELT is an opportunity during the day that affords students who need extra time to complete assignments or receive additional assistance and for other students to participate in enrichment activities. ELT is offered approximately 90% of the school year. ELT time is 6th Block (2:25-3:15).

Discipline

It is important that middle school students are aware early of the policies for the county and for RMS. Catoosa County and RMS policies (**including the Dress Code**) can be found in the Student Handbook https://rms.catoosa.k12.ga.us/parents/about_rms. Students need to understand the differences between their elementary school rules and the new middle school rules and expectations. Topics such as dress code policy and other common violations should be talked about at length with students. Consequences for discipline offenses vary depending on the frequency and severity of the offense. (ISS, Lunch Detention, Detention, Saturday School, OSS, Gateway).

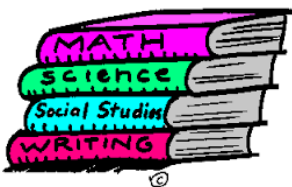
Positive Behavioral Intervention Supports (PBIS)

PBIS is part of a state-wide effort to recognize and reinforce positive behavior choices. By making smart choices with behavior at school, students can receive numerous rewards. From Warrior Ones, given daily, to monthly rewards, students can win various prizes. Behavior Expectations posters will be posted throughout the school to remind students of school-wide expectations. We encourage all students to "Set High Expectations and Make Smart Choices" each day at Ringgold Middle School.

Communication – Remind

Remind is a communication tool that helps teachers connect instantly with students and parents. Quick, simple messages can be sent to any device.

Academic **Grading**



Ringgold Middle School students earn letter grades of A, B, C, D, or F on their report cards. They may also be assigned a grade of "I" for "Incomplete" if, because of an emergency, they do not complete work by the end of the grading period. The "Incomplete" becomes an "F" if work is not finished by an assigned time. Letter grades have the following numerical values:

- A - 90-100
- B - 80 - 89
- C - 74 - 79
- D - 70 - 73
- F - BELOW 70

Parent Portal - Parents can access the online grade books of every teacher your child has for class. The parent must complete the *Catoosa County Public Schools Parent Portal Acceptable Use Procedures Acceptance Form* (included in this guide) and return to Mrs. Susan Edgemann (sedgeman.catoosa.k12.ga.us) at the County Office.) You are encouraged to check your student's progress throughout the grading period.

Homework Requirements

Homework at the middle school level most often is graded and averaged in as a portion of a student's grade. This must be explained to rising sixth graders so they understand that they will be held accountable for correctly completing homework, and that their grades may drop if they consistently do not turn in completed homework in a timely fashion.

Time Management / Study Habits

In middle school, time becomes a precious commodity. Students normally have seven classes in a school day - with seven different teachers, five different expectations, and sometimes five different homework assignments! Along with being responsible for all of the above, students must also be responsible for managing time; both at school and at home. One major academic process that students must fit into their busy schedules is homework - whether completing homework assignments, major projects, or studying for tests. Learning and utilizing study skills will both qualify and quantify time for a sixth grader.

Core Classes

LANGUAGE ARTS

In 6th grade, students apply the skills they learned in earlier grades to make sense of longer, more challenging books and articles. That includes learning about how authors try to influence readers and find reasons to support their ideas. Focusing on how authors make their points and support their arguments with evidence and reasoning helps 6th grade students sharpen their ability to write and speak with more clarity and coherence. Students will expand their vocabulary and use new words in their stories, reports, and essays. To meet these literacy goals, students must devote significant attention to precise details in their reading and when writing.

MATHEMATICS

In Grade 6, instructional time should focus on four critical areas: (1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; (2) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; (3) writing,

interpreting, and using expressions and equations; and (4) developing understanding of statistical thinking.

Content standards for Grade 6 are arranged within the following domains and clusters:

- **Ratios and Proportional Relationships**
 - Understand ratio concepts and use ratio reasoning to solve problems
- **The Number System**
 - Apply and extend previous understandings of multiplication and division to divide fractions by fractions.
 - Compute fluently with multi-digit numbers and find common factors and multiples.
 - Apply and extend previous understandings of numbers to the system of rational numbers
- **Expressions and Equations**
 - Apply and extend previous understandings of arithmetic to algebraic expressions.
 - Reason about and solve one variable equations and inequalities.
 - Represent and analyze quantitative relationships between dependent and independent variables.
- **Geometry**
 - Solve real world and mathematical problems involving area, surface area, and volume.
- **Statistics and Probability**
 - Develop understanding of statistical variability.
 - Summarize and describe distributions.

SCIENCE

Sixth grade students use records they keep and analyze the data they collect. They observe and explain how an aspect of weather can affect a weather system. They use different models to represent systems such as the solar system and the sun/moon/earth system. They use what they observe about the earth's materials to infer the processes and timelines that formed them. Sixth graders write instructions, describe observations, and show information in graphical form. When analyzing the data they collect, sixth graders can recognize relationships in simple charts and graphs and find more than one way to interpret their findings. The students replicate investigations and compare results to find similarities and differences.

The middle school earth science course is designed to give all students an overview of common strands in earth science including, but not limited to, meteorology, geology, astronomy, oceanography, resources, and human impact on the earth.

Major Concepts/Skills

- **Meteorology: Impact of weather and climate on the Earth**
- **Oceanography**
- **Earth Materials: Composition and Structure of the Earth**
- **Earth in Space**
- **Interactions: Human Impact on Earth**
- **Energy Sources**

SOCIAL STUDIES

Sixth grade is the first year of a two-year World Area Studies course. Sixth grade students study Latin America, Canada, Europe, and Australia. The goal of this two year course is to acquaint middle school students with the world in which they live. The geography domain includes both physical and human geography. The intent of the geography domain is for students to begin to grasp the importance of geography plays in their everyday lives. The government/civics domain focuses on selected types of government found in the various areas so as to help students begin to understand the variety of governments in the world. The economics domain builds on the K-5 economics; however, the focus shifts from the United States to how other countries answer the basic questions of economics. The history domain focuses on major events in each region during the twentieth and twenty-first century.

Exams are given for the core classes at the end of the semester. Students can earn an exemption from taking final exams. Exemptions are based on attendance and grades/average in each individual class. Students will be notified regarding their exemption status prior to the start of exams.

5. Connections Classes

Ringgold Middle School also offers a program of Connections Classes in addition to the Core Courses. Connections courses are offered in a nine-week format. Connections classes offered at RMS include:

- Art
- Band
- Consumer Science
- Health
- Broadcasting
- Physical Education
- Chorus/Drama

Gifted Program at RMS

What you probably know as the "Horizon" classes are just called "gifted" here at RMS. We offer four gifted classes in different academic areas: gifted English, gifted math, gifted science, and gifted social studies. If your child was in Horizon in elementary school, then he/she will still be gifted here at RMS. How many classes a student gets depends on several things. We look at individual student strengths based on Georgia Milestones scores (if we have them back in time), previous test scores to see a pattern of strengths, and teacher recommendations from the elementary school. We try very hard to place students in classes where they need the challenge but can also work successfully. Please understand that there is a state-mandated limit to the number of students in a gifted class, and that once that limit is reached, the class is full. Our rooms are located in the little alcove at the top of the stairs that lead to the cafeteria and media center, so your child will not be far from his/her other sixth grade classes. We love challenging your students and both understand and appreciate their "giftedness"--with all the differences that this entails.

Social

Problem-solving, Making Good Choices, and Responsibility



It is important to remember that students' first priority in middle school is to learn! That being said, social skills can greatly enhance their chance of having a positive environment in which to learn. As with everything in life, students will get out of middle school what they put into it. Efforts and choices will directly affect grades, opportunities to participate in sports and/or other extracurricular activities, peer interactions, and relationships with adults, both in and out of school. Part of growing up and gaining independence involves gaining the trust of both teachers and parents. To do so, students must demonstrate responsibility and the ability to make good choices across settings. The students' ability to problem-solve and choose positive ways to interact with parents, teachers, and peers will aid in making their middle school experience successful.

Making/Choosing Friends

Going to middle school is a great opportunity to make new friends. Some tips for making new friends are:

- Get involved in school activities.
- Introduce yourself to students who sit around you in your classes.
- Choose different partners during group work assignments in your classes.
- Sit with different groups of people at lunch

Cliques

Groups of friends with similar interests are healthy and natural. However, cliques are formed when people gather together and begin excluding other people from their group based on superficial reasons (i.e. not pretty enough, not smart enough). Stereotyping, discrimination, and negative social interactions with other groups are possible outcomes of joining cliques.

Peer Pressure

Middle school is a time of great transition emotionally, physically, and socially. All of these changes can either be nurtured or hindered by peers. Remember, peer pressure can be either positive or negative. Examples of positive peer pressure might include encouraging friends to study by offering to study with them or motivating them to work hard at a sport. Examples of negative peer pressure might include someone encouraging students to smoke, drink alcohol, or skip school. In order to best handle social pressure, the following tips might be helpful.

- Find friends with similar interests, values, and beliefs.
- Be assertive – tell friends what you like/don't like.
- Don't use alcohol or other drugs.
- Avoid situations in which you know that you could get into trouble.
- Learn to handle conflicts in a positive way.
- Talk with trusted adults about situations that you don't understand and/or make you feel uncomfortable.

Bullying

Bullying is unwanted behavior that is repeated and where there is real or perceived imbalance of power. The three types of bullying are: verbal, social, and physical. The following tips are ways that parents can help their children:

- Listen to your child. (Some may struggle to talk about it.)
- Help them understand the definition of bullying.
- Share advice on what to do if they see it or experience it.
- Create a plan to protect them. (For example, “Stay in a group.”)
- Communicate with the school. (Administration, Counselors, and Teachers)
- Encourage students to become involved in extracurricular activities
- Model how to treat others with respect.

Let’s work together to stop bullying. For more information, go to: www.stopbullying.gov.

Ringgold Middle School is set up so that sixth graders are in teams and interactions with upperclassmen are limited to before and after school or during special activities. Just as in elementary school, positive social interactions of all students are encouraged, and bullying is not tolerated. If students find themselves in uncomfortable situations in which they feel they need help, they should be aware that teachers, counselors, administrators, and/or other school personnel are there to help them.

Extracurricular Activities / Getting Involved



Sports

An activity that rising 6th graders often look forward to in middle school is the opportunity to represent their school in athletics. Following is a list of sports available at Ringgold Middle School.

Bryan Mountjoy is our Athletic Director. bmountjoy.rms@catoosa.k12.ga.us

Fall Sports

- Football – Tryouts are held in May and games begin in mid-August. Head Coach: Dallas McGee (dmcgee.rms@catoosa.k12.ga.us)
- Volleyball – Tryouts are usually held in May and practices begin in August. Matches begin in mid-August. Coach Annie O’Dell (ablanks.rms@catoosa.k12.ga.us)
- Swimming– Coach Sharlinda Haight (shaight.rms@catoosa.k12.ga.us)
- Cross-Country – Tryouts will be the second or third week of school (August). Coach Jonathan Fincher (jfincher.rms@catoosa.k12.ga.us)
- Softball– Tryouts are held in May and games begin in mid-August. Coach Gavin Roberson (groberson.rms@catoosa.k12.ga.us) and Brittany Portwood (bportwood.rms@catoosa.k12.ga.us)

Winter Sports

- Basketball – Basketball tryouts are usually held in late October and games begin in December. Boys Varsity Coach: Kile Sholl (ksholl.rms@catoosa.k12.ga.us) Boys JV Coach Keith Haskins (khaskins.rms@catoosa.k12.ga.us) Girls Varsity Coach Abby Baker (abaker.rms@catoosa.k12.ga.us) Girls JV Coach Tas Womack (twomack.rms@catoosa.k12.ga.us)

- Wrestling – Tryouts are usually held in late October and matches begin in November. Coach Derek Murdock (dmurdock.rms@catoosa.k12.ga.us)

Spring Sports

- Baseball- Tryouts are usually held in February and games begin in March. Boys Coach Gavin Roberson (groberson.rms@catoosa.k12.ga.us)
- Golf – Tryouts are usually held in February and matches begin in March. Coach Dallas McGee (dmcgee.rms@catoosa.k12.ga.us)
- Soccer Tryouts are usually held in February and games begin in March. Boys Coach Jonathan Fincher (jfincher.rms@catoosa.k12.ga.us) Girls Coach Colleen Reuter (creuter.rms@catoosa.k12.ga.us)
- Track – Tryouts are usually held in February and meets begin in March. Coach Madison Crawford (mcrawford.rms@catoosa.k12.ga.us)

IN ORDER TO TRY OUT FOR A SPORT, A PHYSICAL MUST BE ON FILE. PHYSICALS ARE VALID FOR ONE YEAR. A COPY OF THE PHYSICAL FORM IS INCLUDED IN THIS GUIDE AND CAN ALSO BE PICKED UP IN THE OFFICE.

1. Dance Team

This is another way to get involved. The Dance team is required to have a physical on file. Ms. Blackwell (mdblackwell.rms@catoosa.k12.ga.us) and Ms. Crawford (mcrawford.rms@catoosa.k12.ga.us) are the Dance team coaches.. Try-outs are usually in May.

2. Cheerleading

Cheerleading is another way for students to get involved and represent Ringgold Middle School. The Cheerleading Coaches are Ms.Blackwell (mdblackwell.rms@catoosa.k12.ga.us) for Football & Competition Cheer and Coach Janet Mullens (jmullens.rms@catoosa.k12.ga.us) for Basketball Cheer. Tryouts are usually held in May, prior to the beginning of the new school year.

As in the other athletics, in order to try out for cheerleading/dance a physical must be on file. Physicals are valid for one year

3. Band

The Ringgold Middle School Band is currently led by Mr. Aaron Garland (agarland.rms@catoosa.k12.ga.us). Fifth grade students need to sign up for band when Mr. Garland comes to the elementary schools in the spring for a performance and to recruit for middle school band. At this time, Mr. Garland will distribute information sheets to the students and they should notify their fifth grade teacher if they are interested in participating in band at Ringgold Middle School. Band starts on the first day of school. In early fall there will be a band rental and information night

4. **Chorus** Mrs. Austin teaches drama. She is very dedicated to the program. We have live shows here at RMS. Singing In The Rain Jr was a big hit in March of 2023!. (gaustin.rms@catoosa.k12.ga.us)

5.WRMS and Tiger Den

WRMS is a morning announcements show run by model students to go over daily announcements about what is going on in the school. The student's anchor in front of the camera as well as work

behind the scenes with the cameras, teleprompter, video switcher, audio console, and live stream equipment. The Tiger Den is a weekly news show that is put together by students in the 6th block broadcasting class. The students spend the week gathering interviews, filming events and sports, recording skits, editing segments, and more. The show then runs live on Friday afternoons during 6th block for the school to watch. Students get to experience what it is like to create stories and segments under deadlines and use industry standard equipment through hands-on projects based assignments. Mr. Eric Macdonald is our broadcasting teacher and over WRMS and the Tiger Den!

Transition to Middle School

Registration Information

Prior to the end of the school year, fifth graders from each of the feeder elementary schools (Tiger Creek Elementary, Ringgold Elementary, and Graysville Elementary) participate in a field trip to Ringgold Middle School. During this visit, teachers are given registration forms to complete for their students. RMS counselors will use these forms to schedule students for their sixth grade classes. Ringgold Middle School makes every effort to ease students' transition from elementary school to middle school.

- Prior to the end of school, Ringgold Middle School hosts a meeting for parents of rising sixth graders from the three elementary feeder schools (Tiger Creek Elementary School, Ringgold Elementary School, and Graysville Elementary School). Counselors, administration, Parent coordinators from RMS, TCE, RES, GES, and other representatives from school participate in this meeting. Parents receive a transition packet and are able to ask questions. The transition packets contain:
 - o Calendar for the school year
 - o Information about the Parent Portal
 - o "Moving Up to Middle School" (Transition Guide for RMS)
 - o Middle School Matters! (Middle School Transition Guide for Families and Students)
 - **Parents and students will be able to tour the school and meet their teachers during Open House in August.**
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RMS informs parents SEP-MAY through our Tiger Talk Newsletter

Tips for Parents

Parent participation in education is closely related to student achievement. Both of you will be affected by this change to middle school. The key during adolescence is to balance your support while promoting responsibility and independence in your child.

- ✓ Become informed about Ringgold Middle School by attending meetings/events. Read school guides and student handbooks and visit the school website regularly for current information.
- ✓ Remain involved in your student's education at middle school. Visit the school and take advantage of the many volunteer opportunities available. (See Mrs. Blankenship, the Parent Involvement Coordinator.)
- ✓ Students of all ages benefit when family and school cooperate and have a positive relationship. If you have questions or concerns, don't hesitate to call or email the school staff. Know your student's team (A or B) and your student's homeroom teacher.
- ✓ Organization and time management skills must be developed so students will not feel overwhelmed. Provide a quiet study area, and expect to see your child working regularly on homework and long-term projects. Set rules about TV, computer, and other electronics usage.
- ✓ Know the dress code and check to see that your child is wearing appropriate attire each day.
- ✓ Be sure the office has current contact information. Don't assume your child will share changes in phone numbers or addresses.

- ✓ Talk to your child about school and peers. Listen for comments that reflect what they are feeling and thinking. Expect your child to make mistakes and have personal struggles. Give them time to think and make decisions about how to handle their problems and deal with the consequences.
- ✓ Peer acceptance and self-esteem issues become increasingly important. Provide opportunities for your child to develop their interests and socialize with friends, but be sure to monitor their choices.
- ✓ Avenues of information Monthly Newsletters, Administrator WeeklyTiger Talk, website, social media
- ✓ Please read all Text alerts

Homework Hints for Parents of Middle School Students

1. Identify a good homework place. At home, make sure the lighting is good and space is adequate. Parents don't have to know all the answers or processes, but it is good for students to develop a voice in their heads that asks guiding questions about solving problems. "Telling" a student how to solve a problem is less helpful in the long run than "Teaching" or "Coaching" them to think through problems. You can coach them by asking the following questions:
 - Do you understand what the question is asking?
 - How do you think you might start this problem?
 - Have you seen any problems like this before?
 - Do you have a similar problem in your notes from class that we might look at?
 - Can you show me a simpler problem like this one that might give us a clue as to how to begin?
 - As you write on your paper, talk me through what you are thinking.
 - Does your answer sound reasonable? Does it answer the original question? How do you know?
 - Explore some web sites that are designed to help parents and students with homework, such as the following:

Amy Blankenship abblankenship.rms@catoosa.ga.k12.us

RMS Parent Coordinator 706-935-3381



Keep up to date with your child's standing in each class by registering for the Parent Portal and Remind app to monitor it.

