

## What Makes Middle School So Different?

- New Rules
- More Independence
- More Opportunities
- More Teachers
- More Freedom
- More Homework
- More Choices
- Your own Locker
- More Classmates
- More Responsibility



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## Middle School Can Be A Great Experience!

Always remember there are people here to help you succeed in middle school. If you are having problems adjusting to middle school, you can talk to:

- A parent
- A teacher
- A counselor
- A friend
- An older brother or sister
- Your homeroom advisor

Talking about problems is always the best way to solve them.

### ELCO Middle School Counseling Office

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## MAKING THE MOVE TO THE MIDDLE SCHOOL



ELCO Middle School  
Counseling Office

## Getting Organized

Organization is key to having a successful middle school experience. Middle school means changing classes and changing teachers. Here are some tips to help you get and stay organized:

1. Use notebooks or folders. Make sure you have different folders or different sections in your notebook for each class. Always put your papers and notes from class away in the proper place after each class.
2. Use your assignment book. Always write down all assignments as soon as they are assigned. Share this information with your parents so they can check your progress.
3. Keep your locker and bookbag neat. If you cannot find an assignment because it is lost in your bag or in your locker, you cannot get a grade for it. Clean out your bag and locker regularly.
4. Use good time management skills. Set a time every evening to complete your homework. Make sure to start big projects early. Give your self several days to study for a test.
5. Prepare all your materials the night before. Check that all your homework is completed and in your bookbag before going to bed. Get your clothes ready the night before as well.

## The Importance of Homework

Homework is an opportunity for you to practice the skills you are learning during the school day. Homework is important and it is graded. Make sure you are completing your homework every night. You should:

- Have a regular place to do your homework
- Work in a well lit quiet study space
- Have a set study time
- Bring your agenda book home every day
- Have all your materials with you to study
- Use time in school to start homework
- Always ask for help

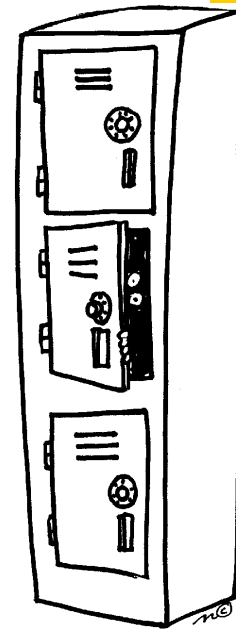
### Unlocking Your Locker Worries

The thought of dealing with a locker is on the mind of just about every new middle school student. Here are a few tips to help you out.

Your locker is your space to keep books, jackets, and items you don't want to take with you at all times. If you keep it neat and use it well, your locker will help make life in the middle school a lot easier.

School lockers come with combinations. The idea of memorizing a combination and learning how to open your locker may sound like hard work. But, you'll get the hang of it in no time!

You will have a chance to visit your locker before school, at lunch, before 7<sup>th</sup> period, and at the end of the day. Make sure you always get the books you need for classes and to take home.



## Changing Friendships

Many changes will occur during the three years you attend middle school. One thing that may change is your friendships. Middle school is a time to meet new people and find friends that share your interests. Here are some quick tips to making new friends and learning how to get along with people.

- **Be friendly to everyone. Make sure to smile and say hi to every student in school.**
- **Don't be afraid to take the first step in meeting new people.**
- **Part of being a friend is respecting their thoughts and feelings.**
- **Friendships involve trust. Make sure you find friends you feel safe sharing your true feelings with.**
- **Friends are often people you have a lot in common with. Join an activity to find friends with shared interests.**
- **Always remember the best way to make and keep friends is to be yourself.**
- **There are a lot of new people in middle school. Remember that the friends you had in elementary school may change.**