



CLARK MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENT NEWSLETTER



Fall—Volume 10 Issue 2

From the Desk of Principal: Scott Graber

Happy Fall!

It's amazing how fast the school year is progressing. As we continue to educate your child(ren), please remember to keep the communication lines open with teachers, guidance staff, and administrators if necessary. Our goal is to work with you and provide the necessary support for your child while they are at CMS. If you have concerns, give us a call.

As many of you know, this past year was the last year for the ISTEP test in Indiana. This year the new test is called ILEARN and is computer based. Parents.....PLEASE plan ahead. We need you to have your child at school daily, but especially during the testing time frame which is April 22-May 17. Our goal is to test the students as soon as we possibly can due to the structure of the test. We need your support and cooperation during the testing window.

Safety continues to be a top priority for the students and staff at CMS. Last week, I sent out an Alert Now message regarding the back parking area. While I know that we are all in a hurry, the lives of our kids are the most important component. Please watch your speed, stay in the lane closest to the school, do not drive over the cones, and please refrain from driving in and out of the back lanes as students are trying to get to the crosswalk area where we have supervision. As a reminder, the handicapped spots are for our parents that have students with a disability and they need those spots reserved for them. Please be considerate and do not park in those areas. SAFETY FIRST!

Please continue to check the CMS announcements that are posted on the school website. There is a lot of information that is relevant for the students and parents. If you need to know about an upcoming event, check out the calendar of events or read through the announcements.

Congrats to our fall sports. We are very proud of the efforts that were put forth from the cross country, football, and volleyball teams. Great job by all student-athletes and thanks to the coaches for their hard work as well.

Need a job....LCSC is still looking for substitute teachers and/or Para professionals. If you are interested, please review the information on the corporation website and maybe you, too, can become an employee of Lake Central Schools. It's a great place to work!

Until next month, stay safe.



Counselor's Corner: From the Guidance Office

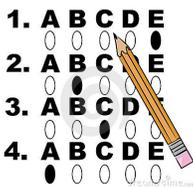


Mrs. Bowman and Mrs. Churilla, counselors at Clark, started the school year meeting new students and the 5th graders. They also attended the grade-level meetings with Mr. Graber and Mr. Staniszc, and welcomed students to the start of the 2018–19 school year. The counselors held a New Student Breakfast after Labor Day for all transfers and students new to the corporation. The morning kicked off with a delicious breakfast of pancakes, sausage, fruits, juice and milk, served by the amazing Clark Food Service staff. The new students played an interactive bingo game and had the opportunity to meet some new friends.

Career and College week was held October 8–12, and students participated in several activities during homeroom designed to assist them in thinking about interests and future career options. All students will receive a copy of the “Learn More Indiana” magazine, which provides information about career interests, Indiana colleges, and other career related information.

In late September, all 5th graders participated in a Stamp Out Bullying seminar, which included videos and instruction on what to do if you or a friend is being harassed or bullied, and how to seek out appropriate help. A similar seminar will be presented to the 6th graders in October, and 7th and 8th graders will participate in the bullying seminar in November.

Red Ribbon Week will be celebrated the week of October 23rd–October 31st, with a variety of drug awareness activities taking place during homeroom time. The theme for this year’s Red Ribbon Week is “Life is Your Journey, Travel Drug Free!” As always, the counselors and school service provider, Mr. Aguilera, are here to assist your students with any issues that may arise during the school day.



INFO ON NUMATS: Northwestern University's Midwest Talent Search (NUMATS) is a program that assists in identifying and meeting the needs of high ability students in the Midwestern states. If your child has scored in the 95th percentile of a nationally normed test or PASS + on the ISTEP MATH OR READING last year, and they are now a 7th or 8th grader, you may want to consider having your child take the SAT or ACT. More information is available on the NUMATS website ctd.northwestern.edu/numats. The dates for the tests, required fees and eligibility information can all be found at this website, as well as answer questions you may have regarding the value of taking a high stakes test.

21st Century Scholars

High school is right around the corner. College isn't far off either! As an Indiana middle school student, you may qualify for a scholarship that can help you pay for your college tuition. You can enroll as a Scholar as early as 7th grade—but no later than June 30th of your 8th grade year. There are a few things you'll need to do first—like keeping your grades up, pledging to do your best and completing activities each year of high school. Plus, you'll need to meet a few eligibility requirements. You'll also need to create a “ScholarTrack” account. This is where you will log in to complete your Scholar Success Program requirements each year.

Earning a 21st Century Scholarship provides students up to four years of undergraduate tuition at any participating public college or university in Indiana. If you attend a private college, the state will award an amount comparable to that of a four-year public college. If you attend a participating proprietary (for profit) school, the state will award tuition scholarship equal to that of Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana*

The scholarship amount may be reduced depending on the availability of funds and the availability of the student's family to contribute to college

The website for applying is as follows:

<https://scholars.in.gov/>



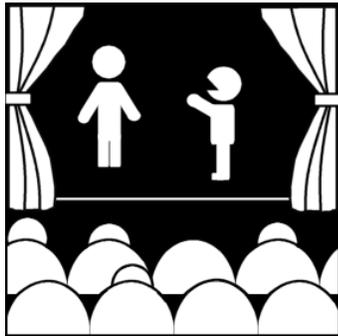
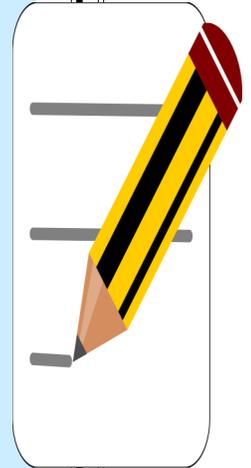
Notes from Mr. Stanisz, Assistant Principal:

Fall sports are in full swing and the weather is cooling off! Time seems to be moving very quickly! We just completed our fall spirit week and pep assembly with a football victory over the Wilbur Wright Mustangs. This capped off Clark's first LMSAC Football Conference Championship! Way to go guys! Congratulations to all our fall sports teams! We had a great showing by all student-athletes. A big shout out to Mr. St. Germain, Mrs. Smith, and everyone who helped make the pep assembly a success. Make sure to come out and support all our Clark athletic teams, clubs, and other groups.

The end of the nine week grading period is approaching very quickly (October 15th). Please make sure to encourage your children to come to tutoring and communicate with their teachers about any extra help or make-up work they need to complete. Tutoring takes place on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:00 am. Also, utilizing their agenda book and checking Canvas is a great way to keep up with assignments and keep an eye on what is happening in class.

We have scheduled our annual Veterans' Day assembly for Friday, November 9th. Veterans' Day information will be handed out to all Clark students on Monday, October 15th. Please fill out the paperwork and return to the office by Friday, November 2nd.

Kudos to our staff and students for all their hard work and dedication throughout the first month of school! Keep up the good work! Go Coyotes!!!



CLARK THEATER

Hope everyone had a "Nice" start of the school year! I know the weather has been crazy, and we are always hoping that the "Sun Will Come Out Tomorrow." The Clark Theatre Guild is pleased to announce our fall production will be a one act play, called Making Nice. The dates are December 6,7, and 8 in the LGI room. You can also "Bet your Bottom Dollar" that we are looking into doing "Annie Jr." as our musical in the spring. More information on that will be given after Christmas break.

In other news...

Lake Central High School Field House Open for Walking on Monday and Wednesday Evenings

Lake Central School Corporation will permit access to the field house for walking on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 7:00–9:00 PM from November 5, 2018 through March 20, 2019. There will be no walking during winter break. Walking will resume on Wednesday, January 9, 2019.

Additional times may be made available depending on the popularity of this community exercise opportunity..

Visitors should park in the front of the school near the pool and enter through Door C, turn right, and sign in prior to entering the field house. Walkers will be asked to sign an injury waiver upon entering the facility for the first time.



On September 6th, Cathie Bledsoe ICAC Youth Educator (with the Indiana State Police) spoke with all students grades 5-8 who have PE (Mr. Simmons and Mrs. Smith) and Digital Citizenship (Mr. Pimentel and Mrs. Giannini) this semester. She discussed dangerous apps, staying safe online, how predators might use social media to target you, and other computer safety information. These helped to cover

Ecoteens - The Ecoteens started their year with decorating the planter boxes for Halloween at all entrances to Clark. They also decorated the area across from the concession stand at the track to celebrate the last Clark football game of the season. The kids did a great job making our school look festive for the upcoming holiday!



*** The Ecoteens club is looking to create several LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES this year to place around the town of St. John. We are looking for BOOK DONATIONS from beginning reader to 7th grade reading level. Please drop off any donations to the main office at Clark Middle School. We can use the books to share with others to promote reading and literacy in our town! THANK YOU!***



Mrs. Cooper's 7th and 8th grade students followed the theme of "**Coyotes go Collegiate**" at Clark by writing to the admissions departments of their favorite college. Students asked for information and materials which have been displayed outside room 709. As the students enter the classroom, it is a daily reminder to follow our theme and stay on the path toward college success!



As we approach the second nine weeks, Language Arts classes will be studying new units. To help promote these units and extend them beyond the classroom, we encourage you to discuss the following essential questions with your child at the dinner table, on the way to a practice or game, or whenever you have an opportunity.



5th Grade

1. What is the difference between fact and opinion?
2. How can people's differences of opinion lead to a revolution?
3. What words are used in a text to express an opinion?

6th Grade

1. How do individuals react when dealing with disaster?
2. How do people deal with and explain the impact of damaging events?

7th Grade

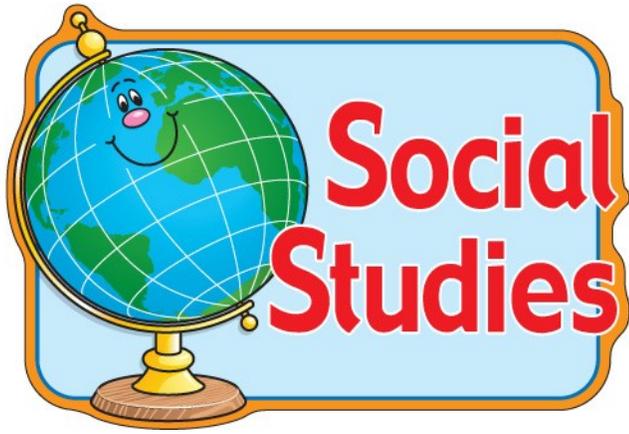
1. How do I step outside of my own perceptions to allow myself to look at a situation objectively?
2. How are people's perceptions shaped?

8th Grade

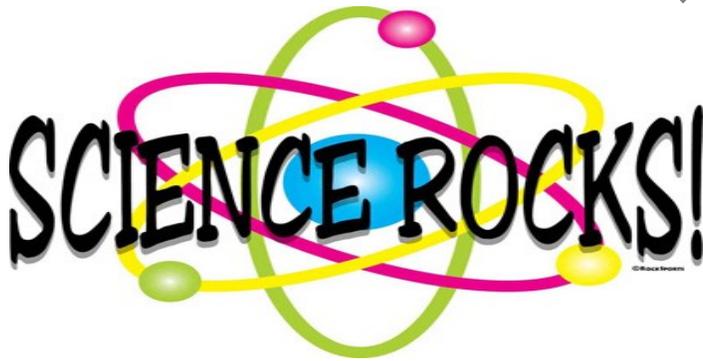
1. At what point do you transition from childhood to adulthood?
2. How do major economic events change and/or influence your life?
3. How can lack of communication interfere with the relationship between you and your parents?

The Lake Central School Corporation is looking for substitute teachers and paraprofessionals! Please go to the main website: www.lcsc.us Under Administration>Human Resources. Scroll down and click on *Steps to Substitute Requirements*. The document will explain the steps needed to become a substitute in the corporation. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Central Office at 365-8507.

Do you need to know when school is in session or when you have school events for the 2018-2019 school year? Please check out the LCSC website at www.lcsc.us and look for the [Academic Calendar](#) link on the lower left side or open the [Full Lake Central School Corporation calendar](#). All the information you need at your fingertips!!



Clark Social Studies students will be taking part in our annual Veteran's Day and **Adopt a Sailor** program during the month of November. If families have digital or print photographs of loved ones that have served in the armed forces, please send them to their child's homeroom teacher to be included in the Clark Veteran's Day program. If you have any questions please e-mail the department chair at jputman@lcscmail.com

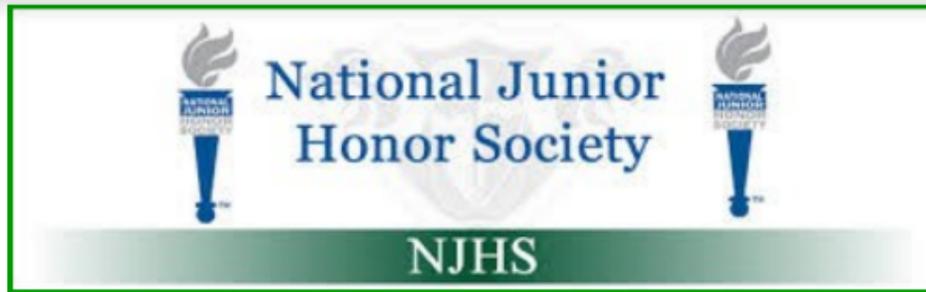


The start of the school year has been busy for the students and teachers in the math department. This year, the I-STEP test has been replaced with what is now called I-Learn. The math department is working on how to prepare the students for this test. Please remember that tutoring is offered to any student on Tuesday and Thursday morning at 8. We ask the students come prepared and ready to go over whatever is needed. If any parent has any questions or concerns about your child's progress, please contact your student's teacher.

The 8th grade Science Classes began using the new 3D pens while creating Bohr's models during the chemistry unit first quarter.

The 7th grade Science classes completed work on Earth's Layers Journals and models during their unit on the subject.

Mrs. Cooper's 8th grade classes have begun their unit on Chemistry. They are currently working on the periodic table of elements and are going to create a Super Hero/Super Villain represented by an element on the periodic table. Their hero/villain will contain superpowers related to the properties that are found in their elements. The creative posters will be displayed outside Room 709.



Applications for new members will be given to students who have qualified to be a part of the National Junior Honor Society early second semester. Students in the 7th and 8th grade who have a cumulative grade point average of a 3.33 will be receiving applications. In order to become a member of the Clark chapter of the National Junior Honor Society, members must complete the application and then be selected by a faculty committee. Just getting the application does not guarantee membership. **Students must have at least two in-school and two out-of-school activities** and answer an essay. The following are examples of activities: Jazz Band, Swing Choir, ISSMA, Chess Club, Friendship Club, Science Olympiad, Academic Superbowl, Dance, Cheer, Sports, Winter Guard, Theatre, Church Youth Group, Religious Classes, Club Sports, etc. You must be in an activity for at least one semester or a full athletic season for an activity to count. The following activities **DO NOT count**: any classes (band, peer mentoring, etc.), babysitting, pet sitting, bake sales or other one-day fundraisers, races/color runs etc. Any questions about what is considered an in-school activity can be answered by checking the agenda book for school activities or contacting Mrs. Giannini at Clark.

Parent Volunteers:

Anytime you volunteer, you **MUST** have a current limited criminal history check on file and a copy of your drivers license. There is **NO** cost. Stop by the main office today to fill yours out!

Clark Middle School After-School Procedures

to improve the safety of our students, staff, and guests, please follow the procedures listed for car riders. All students who are being picked up will need to exit the building at Door J, which is the main entrance. We will load and release cars along the curb first. We strongly encourage everyone picking up to get in this line. We usually have cars loaded and released by 3:50. Students waiting to enter the parking lot to a guest in a parked car will be released after the cars along the curb have exited. Please do not use the other lanes in the parking lot to pick up or drop off your children. Those lanes are for cars to find parking spots. In addition, please do not use the parking spots designated for our handicapped guests unless you have the appropriate pass.

Thanks for working with us to make our parking lot safer for all. Please share this information with anyone that will be picking up your children.



Earn Cash for Our School!

We are beginning a new award program for **Box Tops for Education**. Each semester, the top three students bringing in Box Tops will win Target gift cards (\$20, \$15, or \$10). If we get a large increase in the number of Box Tops received, we will increase the number of prizes. **Please remember that the box tops do expire. Expired box tops will not be counted for the contest, because they cannot be submitted for redemption.** They have to be thrown away. Let's try to see if we can make more money to build up the student activity fund. Please remember **all** the money goes back to the students!!!! Please check the Clark webpage for a complete list of items that are included in the Box Tops for Education program. You may be surprised with some of the items! There is also a list on the box in the office.

LUNCH PRICES AND PAYMENTS

Breakfast \$1.60 / Lunch \$2.45

For more info, please check our school corporation website.

OPTION 1: Online Payment - Now you can make payments to your students account online!

Parents can prepay student lunch accounts online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with Mealtime Online payment feature. It is fast, convenient and secure. Go to www.mymealtime.com

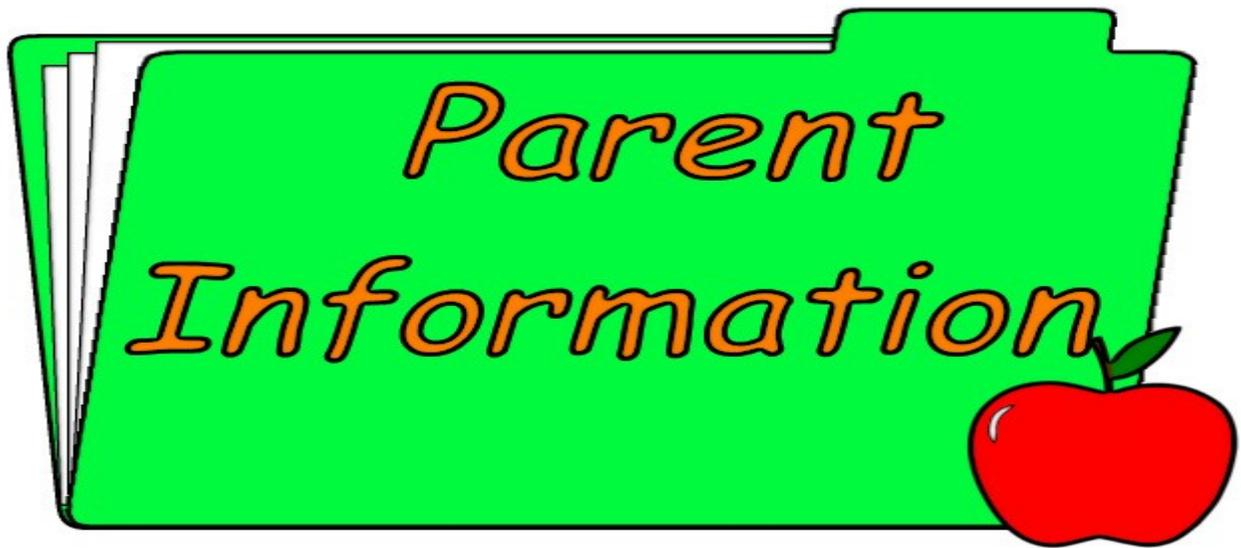


OPTION 2: Check

You can send a check with your student or bring it in personally to your student's school. On the check please mark clearly your student's first and last name, their ID #, and your driver's license number. Turn in deposits in the Food Service deposit box located in the school office or to the cafeteria cashier(s).

OPTION 3: Cash

We ask you refrain from sending cash, but you can send money in with your student or bring it in personally to your student's school in an envelope clearly marked with your student's name, their ID #, their teacher's name, and \$ amount. Turn in deposits in the Food Service deposit box located in the school office or to the cafeteria cashier(s).



WELCOME TO TWITTER,
CLARK MIDDLE SCHOOL

CMS is officially on the Twitter wire! What is Twitter, you ask? Twitter is a social network site set up for parents, students, and staff for news and information. We will be providing information regarding all the happenings around the middle school and important dates to remember. We WILL NOT be responding to questions on the twitter line as it is used strictly for information only. You can set up a twitter account by visiting www.twitter.com. THIS IS NOT MANDATORY! It is just another helpful tool for those of you that access your cell phones on a regular basis. @Clark_coyotes

Did you know?

Announcements are posted daily on the website. Check us out at:

<http://clark.lcsc.us>

MAKE US A
FAVORITE!!

Students are not allowed to enter the building before 8:00 am unless they are under the direct supervision of a staff member. Door A will not be unlocked until 8:30 am. Walkers/bikers need to walk around to Door J (south entrance) if arriving before 8:30.



Before and after school care for 5th & 6th graders can be provided by

Adventure Club.

For more info call 865-6283.

Need to pick your child up during the school day?
Remember to send a note to the office in order to receive a pass out of class.

Middle Years

Working Together for School Success



Short Stops

Waiting patiently

Does your child expect everything to happen now?

If a friend doesn't call back immediately or his teacher hasn't graded his project yet, encourage him to come up with possible explanations. Maybe his friend is at a movie or the teacher has 100 assignments to grade. Thinking reasonably can help him be patient.

DID YOU KNOW?

Research shows that most tweens would like to talk more with their parents about schoolwork. Ask your child to share what she's learning in her classes. Be specific: "What kind of math problems did you do today?" or "Tell me about the science experiment you did in lab today."

Family meals

Eating together gives parents and children a chance to chat about the day's events. It also strengthens family relationships. Whether you have time to cook or are picking up carryout on the way home from work, try to sit around the table and enjoy each other's company while you eat.

Worth quoting

"The time is always right to do what is right." *Martin Luther King Jr*

Just for fun

Q: When does Friday come before Thursday?

A: In the dictionary!



Hints for homework

Maddy has her evening planned. She'll do her math homework before dinner, then follow up dessert with English and science. Afterward, she can unwind from a busy day.

Sound impossible? It's not. Help your middle grader make homework go like clockwork with these strategies.

Think it through

Before your youngster begins, have her make a to-do list. *Example:* Write a poem, read a history chapter, solve 10 math problems.

Then, suggest that she number the tasks, from toughest to easiest, and start with the hard stuff. This "save the easiest for last" strategy will help her finish on a high note, perhaps inspiring her to get in some extra studying.

Think about time

Ask your child to consider different time slots she can use to get work done. For instance, maybe she could set aside a weekend morning or Sunday night.



Also, some middle graders have time during study period or after lunch to tackle homework. Encourage your child to complete one assignment at school each day. The more she does then, the more time she'll have for fun later.

Think positive

Help your middle grader see homework as a chance to prove her independence by getting her work done on time and doing it by herself.

Boost her confidence by telling her, "Homework gives you a chance to show all that you know." And give her a thumbs-up when she does just that. 👍

Be there!

Being in school all day, every day, helps your child get the most out of middle school. Encourage good attendance with these ideas:

■ Point out that there is no substitute for being in class. Your youngster needs to be present to hear teachers explain concepts, to participate in group projects and class discussions, and to ask questions.

■ Schedule doctor, dentist, and orthodontist appointments for before or after school hours whenever possible. If you can't, try to arrange them for lunchtime.

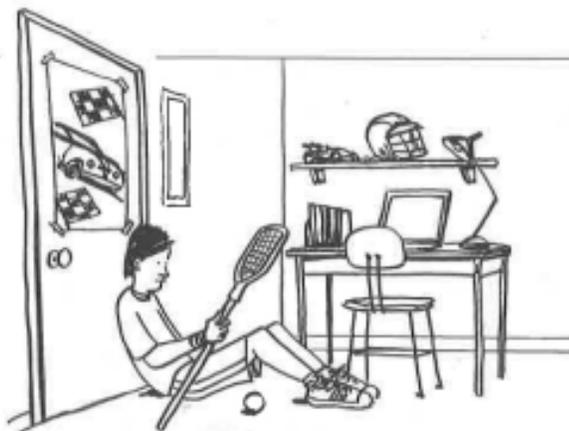
■ It will be easier for your child to get up on time for school if he has had at least nine hours of sleep. Set a reasonable bedtime, and make sure he puts away electronic devices so he isn't tempted to stay awake to read messages or play games. 👍



Emotions in the middle

Moody, private, self-conscious...if this sounds like your tween, you're not alone. At this age, his body and emotions are changing rapidly. Here are ways to help him cope.

Managing moods. Physical growth and worries about friends, sports, and schoolwork can cause moodiness. Let your child know you're available to talk. A quiet statement, such as "I remember what it feels like not to be asked to join a team," can invite him to open up about what's bothering him.



Finding privacy. It's natural for your middle grader to want some time to himself. He might close his bedroom door or walk outside to take a phone call, for example. Show him that you respect his growing need for privacy by giving him space.

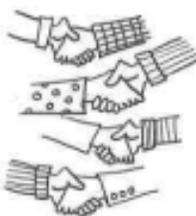
Fitting in. Many middle graders feel self-conscious. Being part of a group of people who share his interests can help your youngster focus on his strengths and feel more confident. Encourage him to participate in at least one activity, perhaps basketball, student government, or math club. 🍌



Tease your brain

Stretch your middle grader's math skills with brainteasers like these. She'll think they feel more like fun than work!

1. At a party, each person shakes hands with everyone else once. There are 45 handshakes. How many people are at the party?



2. Sam added eight 8s and got the number 1,000. How did he do that?

3. Think about a digital clock. In a 12-hour period of time, what's the shortest break between two times that are palindromes (the numbers read the same forward and backward)?

4. Carol spent $\frac{1}{3}$ of the money in her purse. Then she spent $\frac{1}{2}$ of what was left. She spent \$36 total. How much did she start with?

Turn upside down for the answers. 🍌

4. \$100
3. Two minutes, between 9:59 and 10:01
2. $888 + 88 + 8 + 8 + 8 + 8 + 8 + 8 = 1,000$
1. 10

OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

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Parent to Parent

More nonfiction reading

My son, Kevin, reads mostly fiction. But his language arts teacher said the class will read lots of nonfiction this year—in addition to fiction. The reason, she said, is to prepare students for high school, college, and careers, where informational text is important.

The teacher suggested a few ways to help kids enjoy nonfiction at home. First, she said, we could leave the newspaper out and mention articles about topics that affect him. For instance, I pointed out stories on road construction where he rides his bike and on festivals we might attend.

Also, the teacher said to encourage our son to read nonfiction books about things he's interested in. The next time I went to the library, I brought home books about car racing and a biography of one of Kevin's favorite drivers. I was happy to see him reading one, and he even asked to go to the library to get a book about another driver. When we were there, he checked out a new novel—plus a few books on speed records and breaking the sound barrier. 🍌



Q & A Bully-proof your child

Q I've heard bullying peaks in middle school. How can I make sure my daughter isn't a target?

A There is no way to guarantee a child will never be bullied. But there are things you can do to help.

Since bullies are less likely to pick on someone who has friends, encourage her to get to know other students. Suggest that she join a club, and have her invite classmates over. Not only is there safety in

numbers, but having friends will build her self-esteem, which in turn can discourage bullies from targeting her.

Also, talk to your daughter about bullying. Tell her that if she is bullied or sees someone else being bullied,

she should seek help immediately from an adult, whether it's you, a teacher, an administrator, or a coach. Let her know that she's not expected to handle this problem alone. 🍌

