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# Things Learned - or Affirmed - as a Middle School Mom

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## **Things Learned - or Affirmed - as a Middle School Mom**

*(Confessions of a Former Middle School Principal)*

Kate Cassada

(revised March 3, 2016 12:36 p.m.)

God bless teachers who let a middle school child snack in 3<sup>rd</sup> block.

Parents need relentless communication - middle schoolers would never survive as carrier pigeons.

Teaming matters. Significantly. Its absence is detrimental to students and to teachers.

Check the homework balance – eight classes are A LOT.

Wise teachers of advanced classes realize that while the content is high school mature, the learners are not.

He can analyze an assignment at length, be energized by it, complete it, walk into your classroom and...still forget to submit it to you. Gah! Teacher forgiveness is a welcome gift.

Suddenly, study hall sounds like a great idea.

School-wide behavioral and academic expectations feed a whole school culture.

Young adolescents deeply need outdoor activity, sun, and fresh air.

Middle schoolers really do need to connect with at least one teacher. It's not just rhetoric. And parents are grateful when they can tell that you know, and like, their child.

Our children are learning how not to be the bully or the bullied. Socially, it's a tightrope walk for kids, every day. Talk to them about the higher road and keep a keen eye.

Middle schoolers may appear silly and unruffled at school, but heartbreaking stress lies right under the surface.

It is remarkably difficult to transition from the "physical parent" (keep them safe, fed, and clean) to the "emotional parent." Oh boy, my sister was right.

Talk less – listen more.

Why can't young adolescents achieve their fun, crazy dreams? Someone has to.

Spouses of middle school educators are disadvantaged in parenting a middle schooler.

Channel the funny and punny sense of humor, but please don't squash it. Latest - *"I'd tell you a chemistry joke, but I wouldn't get a reaction."*