

# Transition to middle school easier than expected

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The scariest thing for me about transitioning from elementary to middle school was the fear of it being too hard and me making a fool of myself. I didn't think I was ready for middle school, that it would cause me to get bad grades. During the summer, I would always find myself imagining how it would be, and they were never rainbow and sunshine daydreams.

I remember sitting on the couch one day, tapping my foot anxiously. I imagined what middle school would be like; even though all my older friends said it wasn't all that bad, I was still terrified. As I thought about my first day, I remember shivering in fear. I imagined having my locker jammed and I couldn't get it open so I was late to class or going in the wrong class and getting laughed at. I thought of detentions, staying up late because I was being suffocated by pounds of homework and failing grades.

Little did I know that it wouldn't be like that. My locker would jam the first day, but a teacher with a kind smile would ask if I needed help. I would, indeed, go to the wrong class — homeroom, actually — but the kids and teachers wouldn't laugh at me, they would ask to see my schedule and lead me to the right classroom. I wouldn't get a detention because of it, either; I would get an encouraging grin and a good luck for the rest of the day. I wouldn't be up until four in the morning surrounded in homework, I wouldn't even have homework the first few days, just a couple parent signatures. I wouldn't get failing grades, either. I was prepared for this and now my new teachers are showing me the way to success.

Middle school wasn't a lion's den I was thrown into with no experience of fighting, it was a comfortable environment I was led into with years of experience preparing me to succeed. Now, my new teachers are helping me. They will teach me what I need to know for high school, so I can walk in there standing tall, because I have been prepared and I will know exactly what to do to succeed.

After the first day of middle school passed, my thoughts about it twisted upside down. It was actually fun. It wasn't a lion's den like I thought it would be, it was a nice, positive place that I fit right into without much trouble. For the sixth graders this year, take it from me: Middle school isn't as scary as it seems. Don't



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waste your summer worrying about it like I did. You will be fine, you will have great support, and before you know it you won't need as much support because you will have this middle school thing down.

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