

— January 2017

MIDDLE SCHOOL TRANSITION



Changes to look forward to...

Physical Development

- Rapid Growth is typical
- Puberty

Intellectual Development

- Children will ask analytical questions
- Attention span wanes to 30 minutes

Emotional Development

- Everything is in “crisis”
- Mood fluctuation is common

Social Development

- Children “copy” their peers
 - Allegiance is now with friends
-

Rule #

1:

**DON'T
PANIC!**

Rule #

2:

**See
Rule # 1**

Our Goals for Tonight:

- **Familiarize parents and families with West Hartford's middle school program**
- **&**
- **Provide information to help navigate the transition**

FUTURE 6TH GRADERS WORRY ABOUT...

- **Lockers**
- **Getting through crowded halls without getting lost**
- **Having more than one teacher**
- **The lunchroom**
- **Kids being mean**
- **Fitting in/not fitting in**
- **Being embarrassed**

CLEAR PATHS. BRIGHT FUTURE. NO LIMITS.

Focus Areas Across Schools

- **Positive School Climate**
 - Character Education
- **Advisory Program**
 - Where Everyone Belongs (WEB)
- **An Integrated Team Approach**
 - Community within a community
- **A Curriculum Based on Adolescent Needs**
 - Inquiry and Exploration (ex. New WL Offering)

CLEAR PATHS. BRIGHT FUTURE. NO LIMITS.

CONNECTING EACH CHILD TO OUR SCHOOLS:

- **Unified Arts**
- **Intramurals**
- **Team Trips and Team-Building**
- **After-School clubs and Activities**
- **Community Involvement**

CLEAR PATHS. BRIGHT FUTURE. NO LIMITS.

Mission

To inspire and prepare all students to realize their potential and enhance our global community



CLEAR PATHS. BRIGHT FUTURE. NO LIMITS.

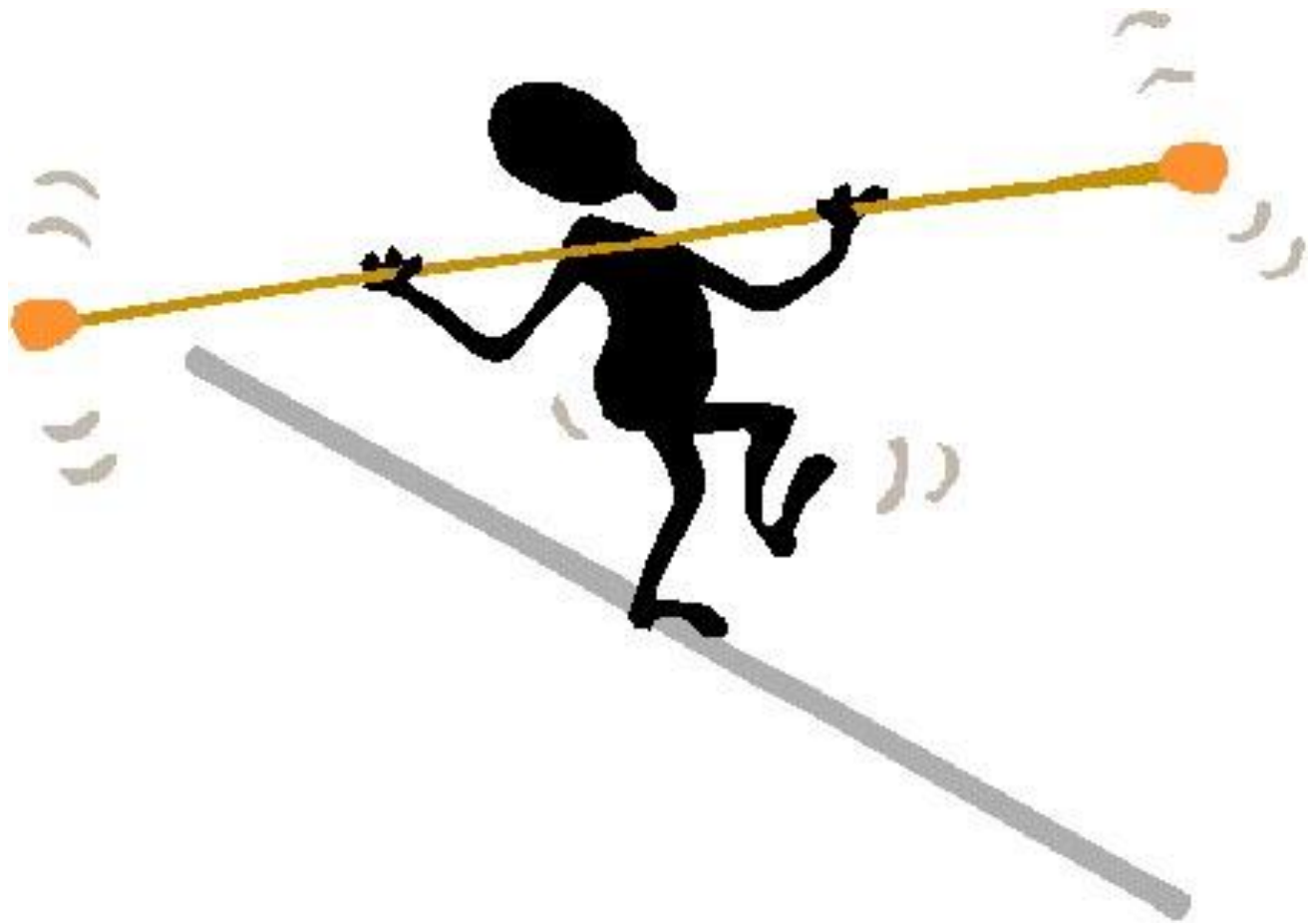
—

Paradoxes of Parenting People in Puberty

1. Peers become more influential , but parents will always be the greatest influence.
2. While you must teach them to look ahead , few decisions now are life-altering.
3. Young adolescents need opportunities for independence , but they need boundaries too.
4. Set the bar high , but don't be disappointed when they are unable to reach your expectations.
- 5.. Your children will heed you, they're just not on the same timetable. One day they too will say . . .

“I sound just like my mother or father.”

REMEMBER: Parenting is a full-time job. Take breaks to have fun and to listen without judging.



WHAT CAN PARENTS DO TO HELP THEIR CHILD'S TRANSITION TO MIDDLE SCHOOL?

Stay involved

- ❑ As much as your children think it's not cool for you to come to school for PTO or other events, they secretly want you to be here!

Stay Connected

- ❑ Keep regular tabs on your child to praise, support, or discuss his or her progress. Remember that it is important for them to develop responsibility, resiliency, and ownership for their work and progress.

Establish regular communication with teachers and counselors

- ❑ Ask questions, keep informed, and solve problems before they grow.

Recognize that teachers, administrators and staff are your partners

- ❑ We want **EVERY** student to be happy, successful, and well-prepared for high school and beyond!

CLEAR PATHS. BRIGHT FUTURE. NO LIMITS.

TRANSITION TIMELINE AND ACTIVITIES...

✓ Transition Orientation

(Tonight! You have started the process!)

✓ School-Specific Information Nights

☐ Bristow: March 6th & March 9th @6:30pm

☐ King Phillip: March 13th & March 20th @6:30pm

☐ Sedgwick: March 13th & March 20th @6:30pm

✓ Elementary schools visit middle schools (*May '17*)

✓ Counselor meetings with Grade 5 teachers (*May '17*)

✓ Sixth Grade Meet & Greet (*Late Summer/Fall '17*)

✓ Open House (*Fall 2017*)

General Middle School Q & A

got questions



CLEAR PATHS. BRIGHT FUTURE. NO LIMITS.