



# December News

## Miami Springs Middle School

### Motivate your middle schooler to stay organized this school year

Getting organized can seem overwhelming to your child—especially if he’s busy with sports, homework, etc. To get your child started:

- **Choose on area** to organize at a time. Saying, “Let’s work together to get your study area organized,” is less daunting than, “You need to get your act together!”
- **Help your child** understand why being organized is so important. He’s more likely to get on board if he sees that being organized can help him. Saying, “Getting your study area organized will help you get more out of study time,” will be more motivating to him than saying, “This place is a mess.”
- **Take the focus** off of “discarding.”

### Spending time with your preteen can really make a difference

You’re not the only one competing for your preteen’s attention. Between schools, sports and friends, he’s pulled in many directions. But don’t give up on spending time with him. Preteens need—and want—to spend time with their parents. The trick is to find ways to do so.

Of course, the other trick is to remember that your preteen is growing up. He’s becoming a young adult with his own

thoughts, opinions and dreams. So take the time to get to know who he is as a person.

- **Build your child’s confidence.** Point out areas where he is currently organized. “Your CD collection looks great!” This will help him see that he’s already accomplished this task before—now he just needs to apply those skills to someplace else.

Source: Julie Morgenstern and Jessi Morgenstern-Colon, *Organizing from the Inside Out for Teens*, ISBN: 0-8050-6470-2 (Henry Holt and Company, 1-888-330-8477, [www.henryholt.com](http://www.henryholt.com)).

Here are just a few ways to spend meaningful time with your preteen:

- **Do chores together.** Raking leaves or emptying the dishwasher may not be fun, but they’re part of everyday life. Ask your preteen to help you with these tasks. Then use the time to have a chat.

Maria C. Mason,  
Principal

2008-2009

### December Events

Science Fair Media Center	12/01- 12/05
Holiday Pictures	12/03
Orchestra Game Day 3:45-4:45 p.m.	12/05
Keyboard & Orchestra Winter Concerts 6:30-8:00 p.m.	12/09
Title I Parent Meeting Media Center 9:30 a.m.	12/11
Holiday Concert Auditorium 7:00-8:30 p.m.	12/11
Keyboard Department Field Trip	12/12
Fine Arts Holiday Show	12/17- 12/19
Blue / White Football Game	12/19

- **Watch movies** or TV together. Afterwards use what you’ve seen as a jumping-off point for your own conversation.
- **Have a snack** with him. Split a treat together after school. Use this time to talk about his day, but don’t grill him. Instead, tell him something about your day and see if he has a story of his own.