



February News

Miami Springs Middle School

Supply your middle schooler with time & reasons to read

You already know you can't force your child to read. So focus your efforts on making sure he has time to read and finds reading worth his while, at least for a few minutes each day.

Have you tried:

- **Letting your child** stay up a bit later to read? (No more than about 15 minutes—he needs his sleep!)
- **Asking your child** to read to another person? This gets your child reading and allows him to do something nice for someone else, all in one. Reading to a younger child, if you have one at home, is an obvious choice. But an older relative would love your child to read to him, too.
- **Encourage your child** to read in his own way? Your child does not have to finish every book he starts. Let him

know that he can put a book down if he doesn't like it. Or he can read a series out of order if he wants. Reading is a form of freedom!

- **Not criticizing** what your child reads? Unless the material is harmful or disturbing, try not to worry too much about what your middle schooler reads. You may think teen magazines are “junk”, but reading them is better than reading nothing.
- **Suggesting that your child** offer an opinion? Middle schoolers like to think they can influence other. By writing a book review, either on paper or online, your child can.

Source: “Quick Click: 17 Ways to Keep your Middle Schooler Turning the Pages.” Scholastic, <http://content.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=1548>

Show your child how to take responsibility for learning

Is your middle schooler sweating his next big test or assignment? Help him take responsibility for his learning by showing him how to prepare for it. The best way he can prepare is to sharpen his study skills every day. Here's how:

- **Encourage him** to read ahead. By skimming over the next day's les-

son or chapter ahead of time, he'll be better prepared for class. This may also help him ask better questions or participate more.

- **Make sure he's in class.** Your child won't learn the day's lesson if he isn't in class. He should only miss school when it's necessary.
- **Have him review** his notes. Even

if he doesn't have homework in a certain class, he should still look over the day's notes at night. It's a quick, easy way to remind him of what's being taught.

Source: Sarah Richard, “How to Improve Study Skills,” [HowToDoThings.com, www.howtodothings.com/education/a1893-how-to-improve-study-skills.html](http://www.howtodothings.com/education/a1893-how-to-improve-study-skills.html).

Maria C. Mason,
Principal

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February Events

FCAT Parent Night	02/03
Valentine's Pictures	02/05
Teacher Planning Day	02/06
FCAT Writing	02/10
FCAT Writing Makeup Tests	02/11-02/12
Valentine's Dance Cafeteria 4:00-6:30 p.m.	02/12
Legal Holiday	02/16
Title I Parent Meeting Media Center 9:30-11:00a.m.	02/26
PTSA Meeting Media Center 7:00p.m.	02/26
Orchestra Gameday	02/27