



Miami Springs Middle School

# September Newsletter

## Begin the New School Year with Calls to Check on Your Child's Progress

The new school year has just begun and keeping on top of your child's progress is essential to his academic success. Now is the time to check with teachers to make sure he's on track in all his classes.

It is time consuming to do this in middle school when you child has many different teachers, however, team leaders could be contacted to schedule a parent conference with all your child's teachers in attendance. But communicating now will pay off for you and your child.

Some things to check with teachers at this time:

- **Homework:** Is your child doing the right

**Attitude in class:** Does your child generally pay attention? Is he respectful? Are there any social issues to talk about?

**Motivation:** Does your child appear to be an eager learner? Does he actively participate in class?

**Performance:** Does your child need extra help in this subject? How about enrichment?

**Long Range Plans:** What tests will be coming up? What projects will be assigned?

**How you can help:** What can you do at home to help your child do better in school?

Source: Rosemarie Clarke, Donna Hawkins and Beth Vachon, *The School Savvy Parent*, 1999. ISBN: 1-57542-072-4

**2009-2010**  
*Maria C. Mason,*  
*Principal*

### Special points of interest:

- ☺ All students must wear uniforms to school.
- ☺ Title I Parent Meetings are held every month for all parents.
- ☺ All students must read at home for at least 30 minutes (*See Reading Logs*).

September Events	
Labor Day	9/07
Open House	9/16
Early Release Day	9/17
Parent Meeting	9/24
Title I Media Center 9:30 a.m.	
Teacher Planning Day	9/28

## Asking What & Why

Children need to understand what they're doing in school...and why.

Encourage your child to consider the content of each class (what), and the purpose of learning it (why). Also encourage your child to start each assignment with a little warm up.

Have him ask himself:

- What am I going to do?
- Why am I doing it?

## Expect your Middle Schooler to Respect your Authority

**T** At some point, your middle schooler will almost certainly challenge your authority.

One good way to hold onto it is to make clear you won't put up with disrespect.

Win respect by:

**Never accepting** mean words or an attacking

tone of voice from your child. Simply look them in the eye and say "You may not talk to me in that way. That was very disrespectful."

Trusting your own judgment.

Correcting your child in private— not in front of friends

**Displaying common courtesies** to your child (please, thank you)

Following through on rules.

**Giving respect** in return. Honor privacy if earned.

Source: Richard Sowienski

"RESPECT, Raising polite kids in an indulgent culture"

