Though we hope you’re more excited than nervous, we understand this is a big move. Below we have tried to address some common fears incoming 6th graders tend to have, but please don’t ever hesitate to reach out with others. We want your transition to middle school to be as smooth as possible. 😊

**Finding Classes and Getting to Them on Time**

It will take a couple of weeks to get used to traveling from class to class. Most of the 6th grade teachers are very patient the first two weeks, plus you can have two tardies before you get a detention. If two classes are far apart and you are always late, go see Mr. Rosenberger or Mrs. Vermillion; they will help you figure out what to do.

**Making New Friends**

The first week of school teachers will do some activities so you will get to know other students in the class. After the first week you should have made some friends in some of your classes; however, if that doesn’t happen after the first few weeks let Mr. Rosenberger or Mrs. Vermillion know; they are good about helping kids find friends.

**Strict Teachers**

There are all kinds of teachers in middle school and all our teachers want you to be successful. Some students may find that the strictest teacher they ever had is also the best teacher they ever had. One person’s favorite teacher may be another person’s least favorite teacher. Remember, part of growing up means that we need to get along with all kinds of people. It is VERY important that you always respect the teachers regardless of whether you like them or not. Mr. Rosenberger and Mrs. Vermillion are always available to talk out any problem a student may have with a teacher or a particular subject.

**Peer Pressure**

There will always be some peer pressure and you may find it challenging to say no to negative peer pressure. The best thing to do if someone is pressuring you into doing something you don’t want to do is to pay attention to your own feelings and beliefs about what is right and wrong; then act on it. This will take some inner strength and self-confidence. You may want to find friends that share your same views about what is right and wrong. That way you will have a great support system when you don’t want to do something. If you are continually bothered by negative peer pressure you may want to go talk to a favorite teacher, your school counselor or your parents.

**Being the Youngest in School/Getting Picked on By Older Students**

You are going from being the top dogs at elementary school to being one of the youngest in middle school. Although you will not be in classes together with the older kids nor will you be together at lunch, there will be occasions that you will see the older kids (after school and between classes). Remember, those big 7th and 8th graders were once newbies just like you and most of them are willing to be friendly and help you.

***Most importantly: If you find yourself in a situation where older students are using their size or status to bully you, tell a member of the school staff immediately.***

**Taking a Shower and Dressing for PE**

Students will be given a gym locker to use if they wish and are required to change for PE every day. Students will need to wear a PE uniform, which can be purchased online. Showers are not required or encouraged.

**Getting to Class with the Right Books and Papers**

Get organized! This is one of the biggest challenges for 6th graders. Some students organize their books and papers into a morning group and an afternoon group of books and papers. If you do your homework but can’t always find it, pick one place to put all completed homework, either a folder, pocket, or the front part of your agenda. A favorite tip is to have one folder for all homework that needs to be done and one folder for completed homework that needs to be signed and handed in to the teacher.

***Getting Everything Done on Time.***

If you are unorganized look at the areas that you might need to work on that relates to organization: setting goals, learning how to prioritize, balancing schoolwork/social activities, and/or time management. Use this knowledge to help change any bad habits you might have. Plus, try to keep in mind this quote: If it is important to you, you will find a way. If not, you’ll find an excuse.

**New Subjects and Many Teachers**

Just be organized - even if it means cleaning out your backpack *every night*. It may take a few weeks to get used to each teacher. Try writing down all your teachers and put next to their names and special things about them. Some examples: How do they want you to hand in homework? How do you get your make up work when you are absent? If you need to use the restroom do you fill out your agenda or is there a special pass? (You get the idea 😊)

**Homework, Studying and Tests**

Use your agenda, plan ahead, and don’t wait until the last minute. Most teachers won’t give you homework every night. Typically, teachers will give you a couple of days to work on homework. For example, it might be assigned Monday but not due until Friday. This does not mean you try to get it all done Thursday night. Do a little at a time – perhaps more on nights you don’t have extracurricular activities. If you are getting overloaded, go to your counselor to see if he or she can help you with some time-management ideas.

*Welcome to Middle School! ☺*

*We’re so excited to have you at Mad Beach!*