



# **CLARK MIDDLE SCHOOL**

## **PARENT NEWSLETTER**



***Fall 2019—Volume 11 Issue 2***

From the Desk of Principal: Scott Graber

Happy Fall.

It's hard to believe that we are close to the end of the first nine week period. Where has the time gone? Anyway, a huge shout out to the students, parents, and staff for doing an incredible job during the first couple months of school. From my perspective as principal, we are off to an incredible start. Thanks again for your efforts daily.

Open House took place on August 22. Thanks to everyone came and went through your child's schedule. We had a TREMENDOUS turn out. The parking lots were packed. As principal, it was great to see the support from our parents. For 8th grade parents....please be informed that on October 16, all 8th grade students will take the PSAT test. This is part of College Board and basically is a pre-SAT. Students will take the test in their advisory classes. Due to the length of the test, most of the students should finish right before lunch. Our goal is to start at 9:00 and work up until 12:30. If you have questions, please give me a call at CMS.

ILEARN/IAM results were distributed to your child on Friday, September 27. If you have questions, please contact us at CMS.

This year, the LC Middle Schools have incorporated a change in the daily schedule. This new aspect is called ADVISORY and has provided an opportunity for the students and teacher to "CONNECT" on a daily basis. Different activities are scheduled during the first semester including learning about how the brain works, getting to know you activities, and strategies for being successful. On September 25th, our Pep Rally took place and winners were announced for the best banner and best chalk design. For the banner competition in each grade level, CONGRATULATIONS to the following advisory classes: Ms. Studer in 5th grade, Mr. Pimentel in 6th grade, Mr. Schaffenberger in 7th and Mrs. Guzman in 8th. In the chalk drawings, CONGRATULATIONS to the following advisory classes: Mr. Maciszak in 5th grade, Mrs. Wypych in 6th grade, Mrs. Rosine in 7th grade and Mrs. Castle in 8th grade. GREAT JOB! Each winning class received a pizza party during lunch on October 3.

Communication continues to remain a critical part of the daily process at CMS. As a parent/guardian, if you have a question or concern, please feel free to contact the teacher first and follow up with your child's guidance counselor and/or administrator. Our goal is foster the best communication we can with all of our stakeholders.

Parents...please remember that on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:00-8:30, each teacher is available in his/her classroom for free tutoring. In addition, teachers are available on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings during advisory for academic assistance. I strongly encourage your child to take advantage of this excellent opportunity if your child might have a question or could use some additional help with the assignments that have been given. Until next month, stay safe.



# Counselor's Corner: From the Guidance Office



The Clark counseling department has been busy planning and presenting during the first month of school. First, we would like to introduce our newest school counselor, Ms. Sharon Vail, who has joined the department and brings a wealth of knowledge after serving at Munster High School for 12 years, and Bishop Noll Institute prior to her time in Munster. The first few weeks of school were spent assisting 5th graders as they maneuvered the hallways and managed opening their lockers. Fifth graders also spent time with the counselors in a "Stamp Out Bullying" presentation, where they engaged in discussion and were given strategies to help them with problems that occur during middle school.

A New Student Breakfast was held September 11th for students who were new to Clark due to a move or transfer of schools. The students enjoyed a pancake and sausage breakfast, and also had the opportunity to get to know each other during table time and through a "get to know you" bingo game. Our Clark student ambassadors also assisted at the tables and facilitated discussion within each group.

During the week of September 16th-27th, there were a number of activities that involved College Go Week and the students utilized the *Learn More Indiana* magazine and designed a pennant for a college or career of interest. Each advisory also designed a large chalk drawing outside of Clark to gear up for spirit week and to recognize the fall sports teams.

Moving into October, the counselors will be meeting with 6th-8th graders in PE/health classes to continue the discussion on bullying and ways to handle problems that arise with other peers.

The 8th graders currently in digital communications classes had a lesson in Naviance and completed several career exploration inventories, and they will continue to explore career options during the semester.

Mrs. Bowman has taken on an additional role as the secondary education counselor coordinator for Social Emotional Learning. Many of the activities done in advisory will focus on brain science, mindfulness, healthy habits, emotions and our brain, and compassion and empathy toward others. Resiliency teams have been established in each school, and they will all be working together to promote the social - emotional health of all children in the corporation.

New York Times best-selling author, Jennifer A. Nielsen will visit Clark Middle School on Tuesday, December 3rd. Our representatives from Scholastic Books are coordinating the event. We'll have two assemblies and a book signing with the author. Students should start reading Ms. Nielsen's books today to participate in author visit activities. You can earn AR points, prizes and enjoy the experience of meeting an author. More information will follow regarding both writing and reading contests. Let's all work together to make this a reading extravaganza!



## Notes from Mr. Stanisz, Assistant Principal:

Fall sports are in full swing and the weather is cooling off! Time seems to be moving very quickly! We just finished up our fall spirit week and pep assembly with a football victory over the Kahler Kolts. Congratulations to all our fall sports teams! We have had a great showing by all student-athletes. A big shout out to Mrs. Smith and our egg roulette volunteers who helped make the pep assembly a success. Make sure to come out and support all our Clark athletic teams, clubs, and other groups.

The end of the nine week grading period is approaching very quickly (October 14th ). Please make sure to encourage your children to come to tutoring and communicate with their teachers about any extra help or make-up work they need to complete. Tutoring takes place on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:00 am. Also, utilizing their agenda book and checking Canvas is a great way to keep up with assignments and keep an eye on what is happening in class.

We have scheduled our annual Veterans' Day assembly for Friday, November 8th . Veterans' Day information will be handed out to all Clark students on Monday, October 21st . Please fill out the paperwork and return to the office by Friday, November 1st .

Kudos to our staff and students for all their hard work and dedication throughout the first month of school! Keep up the good work! Go Coyotes!!!



Any parent of next year's 7th or 8th graders, please be mindful of the following. Applications for potential new members will be given to students who have qualified to be a part of the National Junior Honor Society early second semester. While that is a long way off, there are a few items to keep in mind to ensure your student meets the requirements for membership. Students in the 7th and 8th grade must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.33 to receive an application. In order to become a member of the Clark Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society, members must complete the application and be selected by a faculty committee. Just getting and/or completing the application does not guarantee membership. Students must have at least two in-school and two out-of-school activities (these must be from 6th, 7th, or 8th grade) and write a one-page essay. For out-of-school activities, students need to have some sort of documentation to prove they were members. If signatures/proof of membership is not provided, it will NOT count as an activity. So for any summer programs, sports, activities, etc., please keep receipts, rosters, a letter from the sponsor/coach, etc. These might be hard to track down next spring if they happened in the summer, so keep it in mind now! In the fall, when call-out meetings are going on, please encourage your student to get involved! Membership cannot happen at the time of application and count towards their activities. Students must be in an activity for at least one semester or a full athletic season for the activity to count. Also, if a student plans to participate in track or other spring activity, they cannot count that as one of their activities since the season has not happened at the time of application.

In-school activities are those sponsored by Clark Middle School and/or Lake Central School Corporation. The following are examples of activities that count for membership in-school: Jazz Band, Swing Choir, SOLO ISSMA (not the group required for class), Chess Club, Friendship Club, Science Olympiad, Academic Superbowl, dance, cheer, sport teams, etc. The following activities DO NOT count: any classes (band, peer mentoring, office aid, etc.), babysitting, pet sitting, bake sales or other one-day fundraisers, races/color runs or other one-day events. Any questions about activities can be directed to Mrs. Giannini at [mgianini@lcscmail.com](mailto:mgianini@lcscmail.com).



# Clark Annual Veterans Day Program

**In other  
news...**



## Attention Clark Families:

The Veterans Day video is being updated, and we'd like to include more Coyote families this year. To make that happen, we need your help. If you have pictures or short video clips of family members who are U.S. Veterans, send them to Mr. Magdziarz at the email below. Please include name of the veteran, relation to student/staff member, branch of service, and other relevant information. Deadline for pictures is October 28.

[jmagdzia@lcscmail.com](mailto:jmagdzia@lcscmail.com)

## Clark Middle School After-School Procedures

To improve the safety of our students, staff, and guests, please follow the procedures listed for car riders. All students who are being picked up will need to exit the building at Door J, which is the main entrance. We will load and release cars along the curb first. We strongly encourage everyone picking up to get in this line. We usually have cars loaded and released by 3:50. Students waiting to enter the parking lot to a guest in a parked car will be released after the cars. Please do not use the other lanes in the parking lot to pick up or drop off your children. Those lanes are for cars to find parking spots. In addition, please do not use the parking spots designated for our handicapped guests unless you have the appropriate pass. Thanks for working with us to make our parking lot safer for all. Please share this information with anyone that will be picking up your children.

The Lake Central School Corporation is looking for substitute teachers, paraprofessionals, and bus drivers!

Please visit the main website: [www.lcsc.us](http://www.lcsc.us) Under Administration>Human Resources.

Scroll down and click on *Steps to Substitute Requirements*. The document will explain the steps needed to become a substitute in the corporation. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Central Office at 365-8507.

Do you need to know when school is in session or when you have school events for the 2019-2020 school year? Please check out the LCSC website at [www.lcsc.us](http://www.lcsc.us) and look for the [Academic Calendar link](#) on the lower left side or open the [Full Lake Central School Corporation calendar](#).

**All the information you need is at  
your fingertips!!**

As we approach the second nine weeks, Language Arts classes will be studying new units. To help promote these units and extend them beyond the classroom, we encourage you to discuss the following essential questions with your child at the dinner table, on the way to a practice or game, or whenever you have an opportunity.

### **5th Grade**

1. What is the difference between fact and opinion?
2. How can people's differences of opinion lead to a resolution?
3. What words are used in a text to express an opinion?

### **6th Grade**

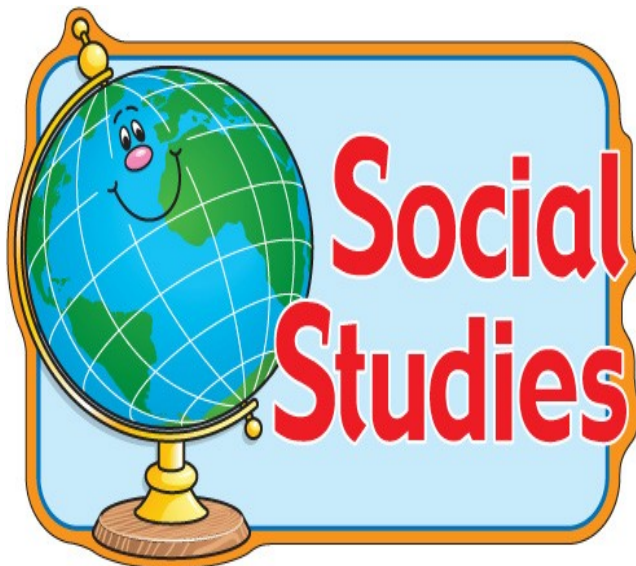
1. How do individuals react when dealing with disaster?
2. How do people deal with and explain the impact of damaging events?

### **7th Grade**

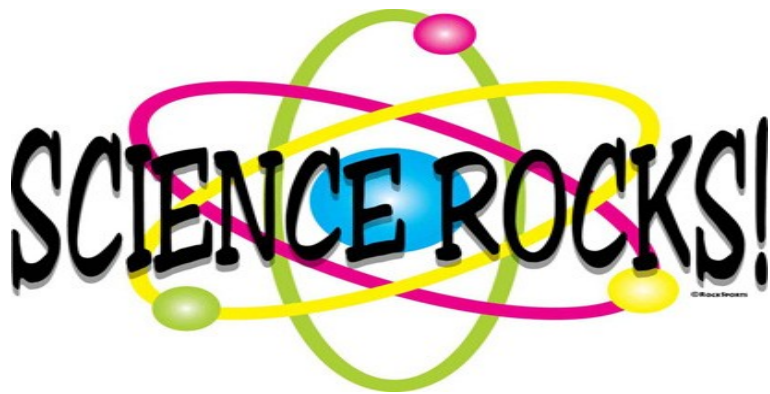
1. How do I step outside of my own perceptions and allow myself to look at a situation objectively?
2. How are people's perceptions shaped?

### **8th Grade**

1. At what point do you transition from childhood to adulthood?
2. How do major economic events change and/or influence your life?
3. How can lack of communication interfere with the relationship between you and your parents?



From the Social Studies Department: This fall the students of Clark Middle School will once again be taking part in the Veterans' Day Assembly on Friday, November 8th. Clark families are encouraged to send digital photos of family members who are veterans to [jmadzia@lcscmail.com](mailto:jmadzia@lcscmail.com) or [jputman@lcscmail.com](mailto:jputman@lcscmail.com). Please include the individuals name and how they are related to a Clark student/staff member. This will allow them to be included in our annual Veterans' Day video tribute. The students and social studies staff of Clark will also once again participate in the Adopt a Sailor Thanksgiving card drive on Veterans' Day. Students will be making holiday cards for newly enlisted members of Navy that are stationed at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center over the Thanksgiving holiday.



All classes have been doing labs and hands on activities to support what they are learning in class. 6th grade is discovering ways to work through scientific method steps to solve problems, 7th grade is starting their unit on Earth's Interior and 8th graders have started Chemistry!



The start of the school year has been busy for the students and teachers in the math department. Hopefully, you have received your child's ILEARN scores from last year. The math department is working on interpreting how Clark did overall, our strengths, and how to prepare the students for this year's test. As a math department, we did very well on ILearn, surpassing the state average in all grades! Please remember that tutoring is offered to any student on Tuesday and Thursday morning at 8 AM. We ask the students to come prepared and be ready to go over whatever is needed. If students cannot make it to tutoring, they can seek additional help during advisory on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. As always, if any parent has questions or concerns about your child's progress, please contact your student's teacher.

### **Parent Volunteers:**

Anytime you volunteer, you **MUST** have a current limited criminal history check on file and a copy of your drivers license. There is **NO** cost. Stop by the main office today to fill yours out! Background checks must be completed at least 3 weeks prior to attending any event.





Lake Central School Corporation will permit access to the fieldhouse for walking on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 7:00 - 9:00 PM from November 4, 2019 through March 20, 2019. There will be no walking during winter break. Walking will resume on Wednesday, January 8, 2020.

Additional times may be made available depending on the popularity of this community exercise opportunity.

Visitors should park in the front of the school near the pool and enter through Door C, turn right, and sign in prior to entering the fieldhouse. Walkers will be asked to sign an injury waiver upon entering the facility for the first time.

## CLARK THEATER

I hope everyone had a great start of the school year! The Clark Theatre Guild is getting ready to start its fall season. There will be two shows this year, so there is something for everyone who would like to be involved in theatre. The dates are December 5, 6 and 7 in the LGI room. We are still deciding what the spring musical will be. Hopefully this will be announced at the closing of the fall plays. More information on that will be given after Christmas break.



# DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

## > Grades K–5 Family Tips

### Help Kids Make Friends and Interact Safely Online



RELATIONSHIPS & COMMUNICATION

*We know the power  
of words & actions.*

Soon after kids start reading and writing, they often begin interacting with others online. Whether they're chatting within games or texting family members, kids need the skills to interact respectfully. These skills will help kids -- and the people they're communicating with -- have positive experiences online.

#### Check out these 4 tips

- 1 Give them the right words.**  
Kids learn about appropriate verbal and physical communication from watching you. But online conversations can be invisible. Occasionally, narrate as you're writing texts or social media comments when your kids are in earshot.
- 2 Play a game of telephone.**  
Discuss how a message can change depending on the person delivering it or the delivery method. Read a question like "What are you doing?" with different tones of voice. Talk about how emoji and punctuation can help communicate tone and emotion in text messages.
- 3 Help kids navigate online friendships.**  
In the beginning, you might limit all communication with strangers online. As kids get older, you can monitor any online chatting. And once they're more independent, you can discuss which methods of communication are appropriate as well as which types of information to keep private from online-only friends.
- 4 Develop their instincts.**  
Help kids trust their guts so they can exit iffy or inappropriate online conversations. Discuss different scenarios and ask how they would feel and what they would do.



## > Grades 6–12 Family Tips

### Help Kids Make Friends and Interact Safely Online



RELATIONSHIPS & COMMUNICATION

*We know the power  
of words & actions.*

So much of kids' social lives happens online. Whether they're texting with their study group, flirting on social media, or voice-chatting on game platforms, middle and high schoolers can learn to communicate in safe and healthy ways. These skills will help kids -- and the people they're communicating with -- have positive experiences online.

#### Check out these 4 tips

- 1 Give them the right words.**  
Kids learn about appropriate verbal and physical communication from watching you. But online conversations can be invisible. Occasionally, narrate as you're writing texts or social media comments when your kids are in earshot.
- 2 Learn about their worlds.**  
Tweens and teens have unique communication styles -- especially online. As much as possible, keep an eye on what they're saying and doing online to understand the norm in their worlds. Don't police everything they say, but keep an ear out for aggressive trash-talking, hate speech, rude images, or anything hurtful. If you see stuff that crosses the line, speak up. Kids need to understand that their words have consequences.
- 3 Empathize with the pressure to overshare.**  
Tweens and teens might feel pushed into sharing a sexy photo for different reasons: a dare, fear of damaging a relationship, or just because "everyone else is doing it." But this one is nonnegotiable. Tell them that you understand how bad it can feel to disappoint a friend. Then help them imagine how much worse it would feel if a private picture were shared with their whole school.
- 4 Develop their instincts.**  
Help kids learn to trust their guts so they can suss out creepy, risky, or otherwise unsafe online situations. Playact a few scenarios: What if someone asks to take a conversation private? What if someone asks for your phone number? What if someone invites you to a private chat room? Be aware that some kids (even "good" kids) will explore iffy stuff online out of curiosity. But the minute they feel uncomfortable, they need to shut things down.



# LUNCH PRICES AND PAYMENTS

**Breakfast \$1.70 / Lunch \$2.55**

**For more info, please check our school  
corporation website.**

## **OPTION 1: Online Payment - Now you can make payments to your students account online!**

Parents can prepay student lunch accounts online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with Mealtime Online payment feature. It is fast, convenient and secure. Go to [www.mymealtime.com](http://www.mymealtime.com)

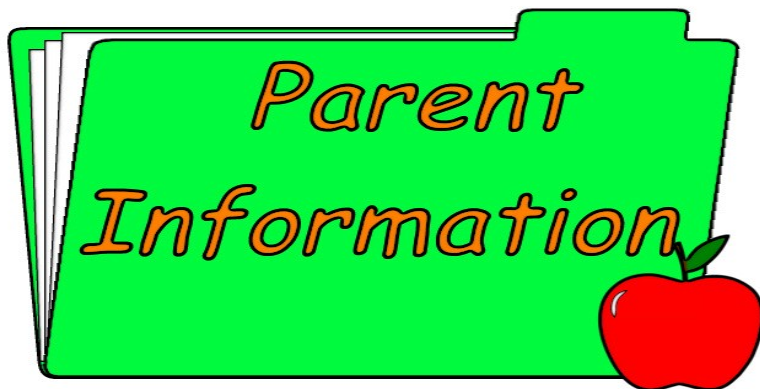


## **OPTION 2: Check**

You can send a check with your student or bring it in personally to your student's school. On the check please mark clearly your student's first and last name, their ID #, and your driver's license number. Turn in deposits in the Food Service deposit box located in the school office or to the cafeteria cashier(s).

## **OPTION 3: Cash**

We ask you refrain from sending cash, but you can send money in with your student or bring it in personally to your student's school in an envelope clearly marked with your student's name, their ID #, their teacher's name, and \$ amount. Turn in deposits in the Food Service deposit box located in the school office or to the cafeteria cashier(s).



Students are not allowed to enter the building before 8:00 am unless they are under the direct supervision of a staff member. Door A will not be unlocked until 8:30 am. Walkers/ bikers need to walk around to Door J (south entrance) if arriving before 8:30 AM.

## **Did you know?**

Announcements are posted daily on the website. Check us out at:

<http://clark.lcsc.us>

**MAKE US A  
FAVORITE!!**

**Need to pick your child up  
during the school day?  
Remember to send a note to the  
office in order to receive a pass  
out of class.**

# Middle Years

Working Together for School Success



## Short Stops

### Waiting patiently

Does your child expect everything to happen now?

If a friend doesn't call back immediately or his teacher hasn't graded his project yet, encourage him to come up with possible explanations. Maybe his friend is at a movie or the teacher has 100 assignments to grade. Thinking reasonably can help him be patient.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Research shows that most tweens would like to talk more with their parents about schoolwork. Ask your middle grader to share what she's learning in her classes. Be specific: "What did you work on in French today?" or "Tell me about the science experiment you did in lab today."

### Keep electronics in check

Encourage face-to-face interaction by putting away devices (including yours) at set times, such as during meals, family outings, or game night. If you're using a device and your child interrupts, switch your attention to him. You'll help him see that the person in front of him is more important than what's on the screen.

### Worth quoting

"The time is always right to do what is right." Martin Luther King Jr.

### Just for fun

**Q:** When does Friday come before Thursday?

**A:** In the dictionary!



## Hints for homework

Maddy has her evening planned. She'll do her math homework before dinner, then follow up dessert with English and science. Afterward, she can unwind from a busy day.

Sound impossible? It's not. Help your middle grader make homework go like clockwork with these strategies.

### Think it through

Before your youngster begins, have her make a to-do list. Example: Write a poem, read history chapter, solve 10 math problems.

Then, suggest that she number the tasks, from toughest to easiest, and start with the hard stuff. This "save the easiest for last" strategy will help her finish on a high note, perhaps inspiring her to get in some extra studying.

### Think about time

Ask your child to consider different time slots she can use to get work done. For instance, maybe she could set aside a weekend morning or Sunday night.



Also, some middle graders have time during study period or after lunch to tackle homework. Encourage your child to complete one assignment at school each day. The more she does then, the more time she'll have for fun later.

### Think positive

Help your middle grader see homework as a chance to prove her independence by getting her work done on time and doing it by herself.

Boost her confidence by telling her, "Homework gives you a chance to show all that you know." And give her a thumbs-up when she does just that.

## Be there!

Being in school all day, every day, helps your child get the most out of middle school. Encourage good attendance with these ideas:

■ Point out that there is no substitute for being in class. Your youngster needs to be present to hear teachers explain concepts, to participate in group projects and class discussions, and to ask questions.

■ Schedule doctor, dentist, and orthodontist appointments for before or after school hours whenever possible. If you can't, try to arrange them for lunchtime.

■ It will be easier for your child to get up on time for school if he has had at least nine hours of sleep. Set a reasonable bedtime, and make sure he puts away electronic devices so he isn't tempted to stay awake to read messages or play games.



## Emotions in the middle

Moody, private, self-conscious...if this sounds like your tween, you're not alone. At this age, his body and emotions are changing rapidly. Here are ways to help him cope.

**Managing moods.** Physical growth and worries about friends, sports, and schoolwork can cause moodiness. Let your child know you're available to talk. A quiet statement, such as "I remember what it feels like not to be asked to join a team," can invite him to open up about what's bothering him.



**Finding privacy.** It's natural for your middle grader to want some time to himself. He might close his bedroom door or walk outside to take a phone call, for example. Show him that you respect his growing need for privacy by giving him space.

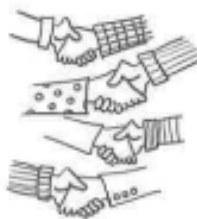
**Fitting in.** Many middle graders feel self-conscious. Being part of a group of people who share his interests can help your youngster focus on his strengths and feel more confident. Encourage him to participate in at least one activity, perhaps basketball, student government, or STEM club. 🍌



## Tease your brain

Stretch your middle grader's math skills with brainteasers like these. She'll think they feel more like fun than work!

**1.** At a party, each person shakes hands with everyone else once. There are 45 handshakes. How many people are at the party?



**2.** Sam added eight 8s and got the number 1,000. How did he do that?

**3.** Think about a digital clock. In a 12-hour period of time, what's the shortest break between two times that are palindromes (the numbers read the same forward and backward)?

**4.** Carol spent  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the money in her purse. Then she spent  $\frac{1}{3}$  of what was left. She spent \$36 total. How much did she start with?

Turn upside down for the answers. 🍌

001\$ +  
3. Two minutes, between 9:59 and 10:01  
2 888 + 8 + 8 + 8 + 88 + 888  
01 1

### OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

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www.rfeonline.com  
ISSN 1540-5540

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## Parent to Parent

### More nonfiction reading

My son, Kevin, reads mostly fiction. But at back-to-school night, his teachers said the students will read lots of nonfiction this year—in addition to fiction. This is to prepare students for high school, college, and careers, where informational text is important.

Kevin's English teacher suggested a few ways to help kids enjoy nonfiction at home. First, she said, we could leave the newspaper out and mention articles about topics that affect them. For instance, I pointed out stories on road construction where he rides his bike and on festivals we might attend.

Also, the teacher said to encourage our middle graders to read nonfiction books about things they're interested in. The next time I went to the library, I brought home books about car racing and a biography of one of Kevin's favorite drivers. I was happy to see him reading one, and he even asked to go to the library to get a book about another driver. When we were there, he checked out a new novel—plus a few books on speed records and breaking the sound barrier. 🍌



## Bully-proof your child

**Q** I've heard bullying peaks in middle school. How can I make sure my daughter isn't targeted?

**A** There is no way to guarantee a child will never be bullied. But there are things you can do to help.

Since people who bully are less likely to pick on someone who has friends, encourage your child to get to know other students. Suggest that she join a club, and have her invite classmates over. Not only is there safety

in numbers, but having friends will build her self-esteem, which in turn can reduce her chances of being targeted.

Also, talk to your daughter about bullying. Tell her that if she is bullied or witnesses bullying, she should seek help immediately from an adult, whether it's you, a teacher, an administrator, or a coach. Let her know that she's not expected to handle this problem alone. 🍌

