



CMS



Middle School Fundraiser

Once again the Commerce Middle School is gearing up for our annual spring fundraiser. The students are especially excited at the possibility of winning a \$100 bill (given to all who sell over 115 items) and the possibility of entering the air "Cash Vault" where they will have one minute to grab as many dollar bills as they can; the top CMS seller will be given this opportunity. We appreciate all who have helped by purchasing from our students. Thank You.



Nature's Mistake?

The students at the CMS middle school were faced with a scientific dilemma: Isn't water supposed to flow down toward the ground? After the recent ice storm, the ice was so thick



that as it melted the icicles did not break and fall; instead, the weight caused the row to bend inward forming what looked like a trick of nature.

Spelling Bee

The CMS school spelling bee was held Thursday February 8. The winners were: Latisha Turner 1st Place and Kyler Ng 2nd place. Latisha will advance to the Ottawa County Spelling Bee with Kyler being her runner up.



EVENTS

February

- 01 Progress Reports Due in Office
- 02 Eligibility Starts
- 06 Send out Progress Reports
OHLAP Meeting 10:00 a.m.
- 07 6th Grade BBall Quapaw (H) 12:00
8th BBall Tournament Wyandotte
Teacher's Meeting 7:45 a.m.
- 08 Parent/Teacher Conference: 330 - 6:30
School Spelling Bee
- 09 GT Meeting 3rd Hr.
- 13 7th Grade Girls BBall Fairland (T)
- 16 M.S. Dance Sponsored by TSA
- 17 Saturday NEO Day
- 20 McCoy Consumer Science Class to Joplin
- 21 8th Grade Writing Test
Teacher's Meeting 7:45 a.m.
- 22 8th Grade Writing Test
- 27 TSA NEO Conference

March

- 03 Shanna Miller Scholarship Dinner (6:00)
and Pie Auction (6:30)
- 07 Baseball Afton (T)
- 09 End of 3rd Quarter
Board Meeting
- 15 BBall Wyandotte (H)
- 16 Zone Day (School in Session)
- 19 - 23 SPRING BREAK





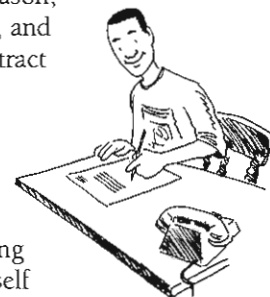
Whenever you want to ask questions about your middle grader's life, try to remain as casual as possible. If your questions are too probing, she's likely to feel attacked, which may make her respond defensively.

Argumentative

"Why do I have to do my homework before I can talk on the phone? I think that's so dumb."

If your middle grader always takes the opposite side of your opinion, don't get too upset. At this age, disagreeing is a way for your child to try out her growing brainpower. Her mind has begun to reason, make decisions, and understand abstract ideas.

Disagreeing is a great way for her to think out loud. She's trying to separate herself from you and prove she can do things her own way.



Sensitive

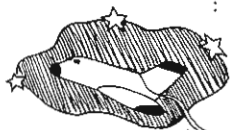
"I don't want anyone at the restaurant to see me. I hate the way I look."

As middle graders mature, their bodies start changing in uncontrollable ways. Examples: acne, growth spurts, facial hair. This often makes them feel awkward about their appearance.

Suggestions: When your child makes negative comments about his appearance, listen to what he says. Try to avoid immediately reassuring him. Instead, make comments that prompt him to describe his feelings. Example: "That must be really tough." This encourages him to open up about his emotions.

Make your comments in a matter-of-fact tone. Middle graders are likely to find joking and teasing hurtful, even if you're just trying to be funny.

Talk about how you felt when you were his age. If he doesn't believe you, pull out old photos. He will quickly see you're telling the truth. Gently explain that his friends probably feel the same way about their bodies. Let him know that these changes will be less and less noticeable as he gets older.



Independent

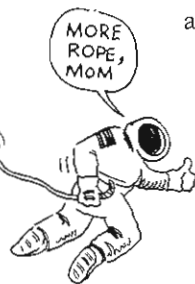
Your middle grader seems unhappy, so you ask her what's wrong. "Nothing," she replies. Then, she spends an hour on the phone telling a friend about her troubles.

As a parent, this may feel like rejection. For the first years of her life, your child relied on you to help her fix what was bothering her. Now she turns to friends for help.

Although you may feel like you've done something wrong, middle graders naturally begin to form relationships outside the family. It's part of growing up—depending less on parents to meet all their needs.

Suggestions: The key to this stage of your child's life is to allow her to make more decisions about how and when she does things. But make it clear that her newfound freedom has conditions. For example, so long as her work gets done, you'll try to stay out of her hair.

But if she stops meeting her obligations, remind her that you'll step in and take over.



Middle Years