

# 7th and 8th Grade Parent Conversation



**Hommocks Middle School**  
**November 6, 2019**



What  
do you  
see?

# Demands of Middle School



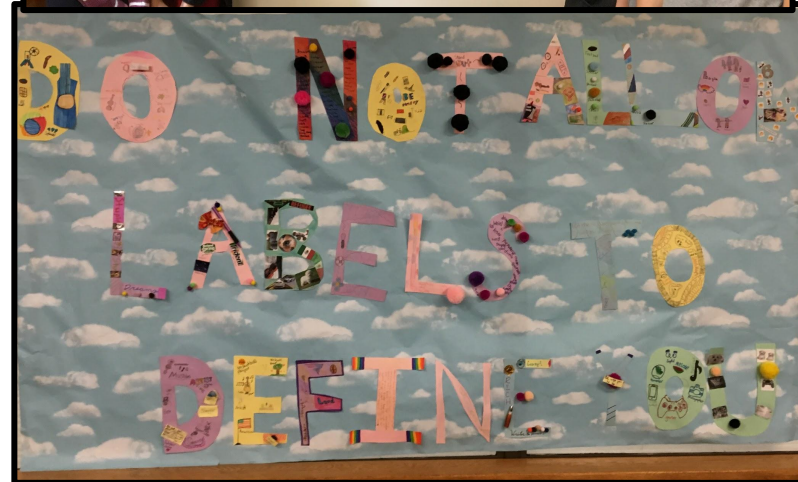
- Quick and repeated transitions throughout the day
- Technology as an integral tool to study, collect information, record and collaborate with others
- Socialization in and out of the classroom
- Self-Advocacy Skills
- Self- Awareness



# Our Student Vision at Hommocks

By the end of 8th grade, we want our graduating students to be:

- Confident
- Self starters
- Powerful Communicators
- Collaborative
- Problem solvers
- Big picture thinkers
- Empathetic
- Responsible citizens



# Physical Development of 12 and 13 Year Olds

- Wide differences in the rate of physical growth- 95% of mature height and boys' voice change
- Skin problems emerge; hygiene is a key issue
- Feel awkward about body
- Hormonal/physical demands of puberty may slow intellectual growth
- Short term thinking may predominate over long term planning
- Abstract reasoning begins to be functional in some 13 year olds.

# Social and Emotional Development

- Concerned about physical attractiveness to others; the mirror is their best friend and worst enemy
- Struggle with sense of identity:
- Increased distractions from doing homework: Sports, dress, telephone, computer, video games are more attractive activities
- One word answers to adult questions (minimal feedback)
- Peer relations/peer pressure (being “cool”):
- Parent relationships: What would you say?

# Intellectual Development

- Short term thinking may predominate over long term planning
- Abstract reasoning and “formal operations” begin to be functional in some thirteen year olds.
- Like to challenge answers
- Withdrawn and sensitive nature is protective of developing self-concept and intellectual ideas that are not fully formed yet
- Tentative approach to difficult intellectual tasks; not willing to take big learning risks; this has usually caused the fears and self-consciousness of adolescence
- Risk-taking behaviors spring from lack of cause-effect thinking; highest incidence of experimentation with drinking, drugs, smoking, etc. takes place between ages 12 and 16
- Concerns with rules/fairness; idealistic

# Bloom's Taxonomy

**create**

**Produce new or original work**

*Design, assemble, construct, conjecture, develop, formulate, author, investigate*

**evaluate**

**Justify a stand or decision**

*appraise, argue, defend, judge, select, support, value, critique, weigh*

**analyze**

**Draw connections among ideas**

*differentiate, organize, relate, compare, contrast, distinguish, examine, experiment, question, test*

**apply**

**Use information in new situations**

*execute, implement, solve, use, demonstrate, interpret, operate, schedule, sketch*

**understand**

**Explain ideas or concepts**

*classify, describe, discuss, explain, identify, locate, recognize, report, select, translate*

**remember**

**Recall facts and basic concepts**

*define, duplicate, list, memorize, repeat, state*



# Habits to Build Academic Success

- Develop study skills
- Organizational and spatial skills
- Time Management
- Taking breaks-decompressing
- Prioritizing Tasks



# Suggestions for Helping your teen with homework



## **Increasing Independence**

- Encourage your child to check the Student Portal and utilize office hours at lunch or after school to gain extra support and connect with teachers. The goal, from the child's view, is to be an advocate for yourself and your learning. If you aren't understanding, meet with your teacher and ask questions!
- Try to let students solve the problem first, before "fixing it" for them.
- With your child, create a specific, realistic, attainable academic goal at the beginning of the year. With each progress report and report card, remind your child to monitor the goal. Discuss what is working, what is not working, and who or what does your child need to achieve his/her goal.
- Your child's school counselor is always available to help navigate the social, emotional, and academic challenges.

## **Outside School**

- Make sure you provide an environment that helps them relieve stress - family time is important; get them involved in helping cook dinner; encourage exercise (taking the dog for a walk), eating right and getting enough sleep.

# Supporting Middle Schoolers

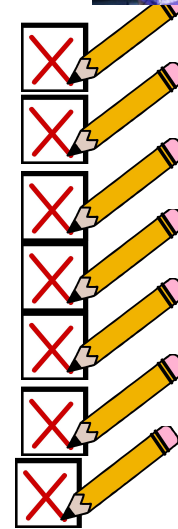
- Making time to connect during everyday activities
- Know what is going on in your child's social media world
- Hold teens accountable in respectful ways



# What's new in eighth grade?



- Regents Exams
- FACS in 8th grade, Stone Barns
- Washington, DC Overnight Field Trip
- Advocacy Groups
- High School Transition
- Graduation Dance and Ceremony





# Final Words:

- Middle School is a bridge between elementary and high school
- MS teachers play many roles in our students' lives: teacher, confidant, personal assistant, counselor, cheerleader
- Trust is the only way we can achieve the transfer of independence to our students as they transition to high school

# Your Task

Write a short note to your child encouraging them along their journey to independence and academic achievement.



Thank You!