Parent Pointers

Calendar

Middle School Parents® still make the difference!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Help your child think of several goals for the summer. Plan how he'll reach them.	**2** While your child is talking, make eye contact and give her your undivided attention.	**3** Check out a cookbook at the library. Try a new recipe with your child.	**4** Notice something your child does right. Compliment him on it.	**5** See a popular movie for young people. Then decide if your child should see it.
6 Play a game that builds language skills, such as Scrabble® or Boggle®.	**7** Keep track of how much TV your child watches. Is it more than you expected?	**8** Ask your child what he liked most about the school year.	**9** Role-play a difficult situation with your child. What if a friend asked her to smoke?	**10** Let your child open a savings account. Think of two things to save for.	**11** Talk about an ad your child saw on TV. What sales techniques did it use?	**12** Give your child a journal where she can write down summer memories.
13 Find a crossword puzzle in the paper. Solve it with your child.	**14** It's U.S. Flag Day. Choose another country and have your middle schooler find its flag in the encyclopedia.	**15** Have your child show you her favorite Internet site. What does she like about it?	**16** Suggest that your child write to a summer pen pal, perhaps one in another country.	**17** List family rules on a poster, such as "Everyone comes home for dinner at 6:00."	**18** Encourage your child to invite friends over. Be home to supervise.	**19** Ask your child how many books he plans to read this summer. Challenge him to meet his goal.
20 Use a new word while talking with your child. Can she figure out what it means?	**21** Let your child pick a volunteer activity that you can do together.	**22** Make time in your daily family routine for reading, perhaps before bed.	**23** Encourage your child to make "to-do" lists and cross off things he's accomplished.	**24** Get some exercise with your child. Ask what sport she'd like to play.	**25** Make an "I'm bored" box. Fill it with interesting things for your child to read and do.	**26** Let your child take pictures of weekend family activities. Add them to a photo album.
27 Admit one of your flaws. Show your child that no one is perfect, and that's okay.	**28** Talk with your child about smoking. Explain why it's not acceptable in your family.	**29** Ask your child what careers interest him. How could he prepare for them now?	**30** Give your child a calendar so she can practice long-term planning.	**June 2010**		

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Parent Pointers

Calendar

Middle School Parents® still make the difference!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
July 2010				**1** Middle schoolers often abuse inhalants. Learn about these dangerous substances.	**2** Point out a stereotype on television. Help your child think about why it's unfair.	**3** Call parents of your child's friends. See if you can agree on common rules.
4 Help your child set exciting goals for the future. Goals can keep kids out of trouble.	**5** Does your child daydream a lot? It may be a good way for him to think through problems.	**6** Take your child to work. Mention how what you learned in school helps you on the job.	**7** Learn the warning signs of suicide to make sure your middle schooler is not at risk.	**8** Have your children list things they fight about often. Can they work out some solutions?	**9** Give your child a say in which chores she does. There may be some she likes.	**10** Think of something your child wants to learn about, such as botany. Find a book about it.
11 Encourage your child to do something creative, such as invent a recipe.	**12** Have your child make a "phone book" of important numbers—police, neighbors, etc.	**13** Next time your child makes a mistake, ask what he learned from it.	**14** Teach your child to divide big projects into steps. Praise her as she makes progress.	**15** Have your child play you his favorite song. Ask what he likes about it.	**16** Switch roles while disagreeing with your child. Can you see each other's point of view?	**17** If your child asks to stay up late, say, "You can stay up and read."
18 Take advantage of opportunities to talk with your child, such as while you're in the car.	**19** Challenge each family member to share a new and interesting fact at dinnertime.	**20** Take turns describing something by giving four clues. Can you guess what it is?	**21** Teach your child about nutrition by planning a complete, healthy meal together.	**22** Bring a calculator to the grocery store. Have your child help you compare prices.	**23** Find an interesting location on a map with your child. How would he get there?	**24** Take a picture of your child doing something special, such as playing her favorite sport.
25 As a family, plan which TV shows you'll watch this week. Stick to the plan.	**26** Suggest that your child write a fan letter to someone he admires.	**27** What do you admire about your child? Share your answer with her.	**28** If your middle schooler misplaces something frequently, help her find a specific place to keep it.	**29** It's natural for middle schoolers to test limits. Don't bend rules that are important.	**30** Teach your child a three-step process for any job: Plan, do, finish.	**31** Play a game that builds math skills, such as tic-tac-toe, checkers or chess.

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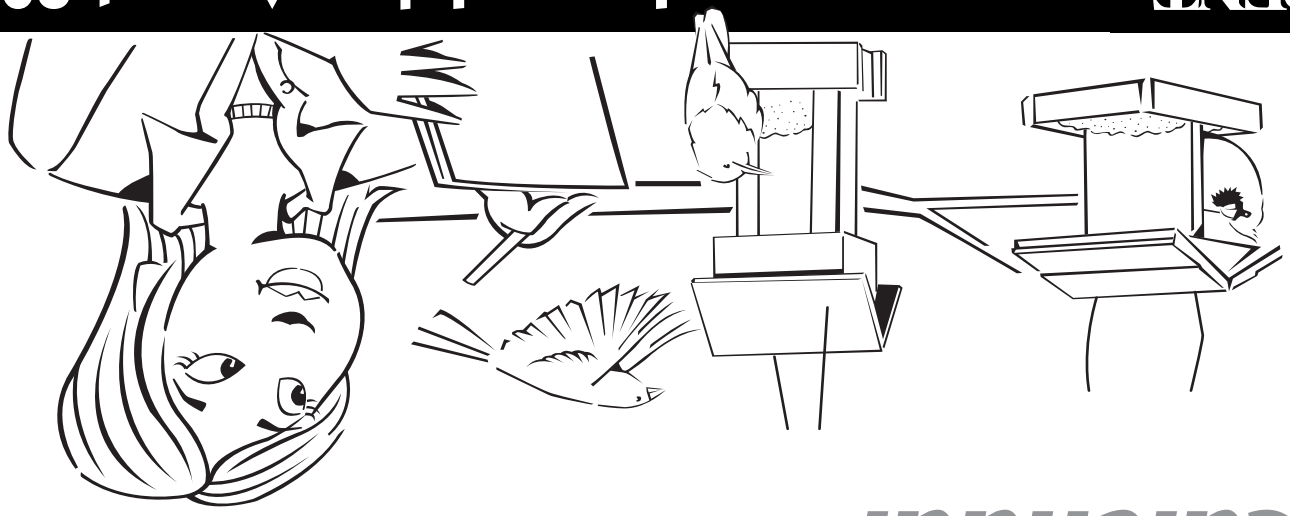

Middle School Parent Pointers Calendar

Chambersburg Area School District

Parent Pointers

Calendar

Middle School Parents still make the difference!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Call a nearby museum and ask about upcoming exhibits. What would interest your child?	**2** Begin holding weekly family meetings. Discuss goals, problems and successes.	**3** Give your child a specific compliment, such as "I can always count on you to be on time."	**4** Evaluate the rules you have made for your child. Has he outgrown any of them?	**5** Apologize for a mistake you made with your middle schooler recently.	**6** Start and end the day by saying "I love you" to your child.	**7** Buy a photo album. Together fill it with mementos during your child's upcoming school year.
8 Take your child out to breakfast or plan another one-on-one activity.	**9** Set a family goal. Reach the goal through teamwork so everyone can be proud.	**10** Make today a TV-free day. Spend time talking, playing games and reading.	**11** Have a formal family dinner. Everyone should dress up and use their best manners.	**12** Begin working on a project with your child, such as building a model.	**13** Attend an artistic event, such as a play, concert or dance performance with your child.	**14** Do something special for your child, such as serving her breakfast in bed.
15 Develop a secret signal with your child. For example, two winks might mean "I love you."	**16** Brainstorm about ways to become more involved with your child's education.	**17** Are there any new responsibilities your child could handle? Trust her with them.	**18** Suggest that your child write and edit a family newsletter. Mail it to relatives.	**19** Have your child guess how long it will take to finish a task. Then test her estimate.	**20** Go for a walk with your middle schooler. See how many new things you notice about your neighborhood.	**21** Discuss what your child would like to accomplish this school year. How will he succeed?
22 Play music while doing chores to make them more fun.	**23** Eat dinner together as a family. Or meet for breakfast or lunch.	**24** Tell your child a story about your childhood that he can relate to.	**25** Have a calm family discussion about a controversial issue, such as politics.	**26** Help your child set up a quiet, comfortable study spot in preparation for school.	**27** Ask your child to help you choose household items to donate to charity.	**28** Has your child reached his goals for the summer? Celebrate his successes!
29 Think of a meaningful quotation you love. Post it in a visible spot.	**30** Teach your child a silly skill, such as how to juggle fruit.	**31** Send a family letter to a favorite relative. Let each member write a section.	**August 2010**			

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