

The background of the slide features a close-up, slightly blurred image of a notebook. The notebook has lined paper with cursive handwriting in blue ink. A purple pencil is visible on the left side, resting on the paper. The overall color scheme is warm, with shades of brown and orange.

Transitioning to Middle School

This WILL be great!

The Developmental Characteristics of Middle School Students

- Students in grades six through eight are changing physically, socially, emotionally, and intellectually. During this time, children are struggling to define themselves as individuals and in relation to others. They begin to question the role of adults in their lives, and their peers take on increasing importance. They face many unique challenges as they struggle to find themselves in this transition between childhood and adulthood.

Learning as an Adolescent

- Generally, children who are 10 to 15 years of age and in grades six through eight are similar in the ways they learn. They tend to learn best by doing, experiencing, and using their senses. They often require concrete models and have a need to make relevant associations between what they learn and their everyday experiences.

Physical Characteristics.....

- * Uneven physical growth
- * Rapid brain growth
- * Restlessness and periods of fatigue
- * Metabolic and hormonal fluctuation
- * Periods of high energy and lathargy
- * Underdeveloped sense of time and space

Emotional Characteristics

- * Fluctuating emotions
- * High level of anxiety
- * Extreme sensitivity
- * Ambivalence
- * Behavior
- * Fluctuating moods
- * Extreme self-consciousness

Intellectual Characteristics

- * Short attention span
- * Needs relevance in learning
- * Responds to choice
- * Varied ability levels
- * Varied interests
- * Inquisitive
- * Concrete thinking
- * Orientation to the present

Social Characteristics

- * Desire for independence
- * Sensitivity to peer pressure
- * Self and others
- * Reclusive behavior
- * Changing interests, needs and priorities
- * Needs to focus on role models
- * Acceptance

Hill Country Staff Embraces This Stage!

Great counselors who will help with everything!

Teachers who gradually reduce support to promote independence.

Teachers who coordinate homework and testing efforts.

Music programs to develop interest outside traditional classroom learning.

Electives Rotation to expose students to a variety of electives.

Keeping 6th graders together as a group as much as possible (lunch, electives, block classes)

Advisory time.

Academic Teaming

Hill Country Staff Embraces This Stage!

- Development of study and organization skills unit at the beginning of the year
- Use of a paper planner in each class
- Integration of Social Emotional Learning skills such as self-awareness, self-management, resilience, relationship skills and responsible decision making

How Can You Support Your Child?

Involved Middle School Parents:

- * spend uninterrupted, quality time listening and talking with their child about school
- * help their child develop appropriate time management skills in relation to school assignments, extracurricular activities, and recreational activities
- * keep in touch with their child's teachers via:
check agenda daily, ask to see student's homework, look at the teacher websites, look in Skyward with your student about once a week
- * volunteer at their child's school and with extracurricular activities
- * model time management and organizational skills for your student

How Can You Support Your Child?

- * set up iPad rules and expectations for the school iPad. Note: the school filters do not apply when students come home.
- * set up a homework routine.
- * read principal's newsletter
- * let your child solve some of their problems on their own.

Figure out what you will do when items are forgotten at home. Will you bring them every time, will you bring them only a certain amount of the time, what will you do if your child forgets to do their homework etc.?

Important Dates

- * Cougar Camp- August 9 9AM-12PM or
1PM -4PM
- * Parent Academy – August 15 6-8PM
- * Hill Country Hello- August 16 1-4PM

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