

Parent Pointers

Calendar

Brandon Pitcher
Oakbrook Middle School



THE
PARENT
INSTITUTE®

Parent Pointers

Calendar

Middle School
Parents
still make the difference!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Talk about ways your family can do something for others this holiday season.	2 Discuss stereotypes with your child. Talk about why they're unfair.	3 Ask your child to tell you about the similarities and the differences among his classes.	4 If your child is having trouble starting to write a paper, have her write just one sentence and then take a break.	5 Peer pressure can be positive. Encourage group activities like sports and volunteering.	6 Look in the newspaper or online for free family events in your area. Plan to attend one this month.	7 Check out a book of simple science experiments your child can do at home. Try one with him.
8 Tell your child that her effort is more important than her ability when it comes to success.	9 To encourage saving, consider matching your child's savings with an equal contribution.	10 Play Alphabet Mix up. Choose a word; rearrange the letters in alphabetical order. Can your child figure out the word?	11 If your child loses items, make him responsible for replacing them. He'll learn to be more careful.	12 Help your child see that she can't control others, but she can control how she reacts to others.	13 Remind your child of the long-term benefits of achieving in school.	14 Don't try to do everything yourself. Ask your child to take responsibility for one or two holiday traditions.
15 Ask your child to brainstorm dinner ideas for the week.	16 Social media makes it easy to hurt someone. Tell your child not to post anything he wouldn't say to someone's face.	17 Tell your child that you believe she can succeed. This will make her more likely to do so.	18 Talk with your child about a choice you have made. Then talk about the consequences.	19 Take advantage of time in the car with your child. You can talk privately without interruption.	20 Remind your child to use you as a scapegoat if necessary: "My mom wants me home tonight. Sorry."	21 Ask your child to take photos during family events.
22 If your child doesn't know how to do his laundry, teach him. Feeling competent makes middle schoolers feel good.	23 Ask your child to tell you what the word <i>happiness</i> means to her.	24 Give your child the gift of time. Time with parents is more important to kids than material things.	25 Talk with your child about the very best present he ever received. What made it special?	26 Ask everyone to write down two positive things about each member of the family. Don't forget to include yourself.	27 Let your child invite friends to stay for a family dinner. It's a great way to learn more about her peer group.	28 Enjoy some physical activity with your child. You'll both get exercise, and it may lead to some interesting conversation.
29 Ask your child: "If you could trade lives with somebody you know, who would it be? Why?"	30 Choose a number, then have your child list all the things he can think of that come in that number.	31 Have your child create a time line of the past year.				

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