

Blevins Middle School Student/Parent Considerations and Discussion Topics

- How will your student come and go to school safely (walk, bike, skate, car, city bus, school bus)
- Traffic flow/pattern/drop-off (Taft Hill Road)
- Building Safety – All visitors must sign-in and out of building in the front office
- Cell phones, Texting, Pictures, Internet Access
- Extra-Curricular Activities (School/Community)
- Parent involvement and Volunteering (PTO-Meets 1st Tuesday of Month at 6:30, SIT-Meets first Wednesday of the Month at 3:00, Tutoring, Dances, Other Events, Science Olympiad Coach, Math Counts Coach, Athletic Coach, etc..)
- Dress code (Conservative)
- Attendance- Goal is a 95% or higher student attendance rate

Parent Awareness Issues related to Adolescent Development and Changes

- Adolescence = the period of biological, cognitive and biosocial transition from childhood to adulthood. Usually lasts a decade.
- Middle School Ages 11-14
- Onset of puberty = A period of rapid growth and sexual change that occurs in early adolescence and produces a person of adult size & shape by the end of high school.
- Hormones = dozens of them have a direct effect on emotions. Evidence suggests conflict, moodiness, impulsivity; sexual urges rise at this time.
- Weight & Height = become noticeably different
- Secondary Sex Characteristics = voice changes, breasts, hair, muscle tone, menstruation.
- Nutrition = increased appetite, during growth spurt it is essential for our kids to get proper nutrition. Nutritional deficits can play out as emotional or behavioral issues, eg. difficulty focusing or moodiness....
- Risk Taking and Experimentation = Tobacco, drugs or risky sexual/social behaviors
- Cognitive Development = increased memory development, processing speed, extensive increase in knowledge base, selective attention (have more control of their attention.)
- Metacognition = the ability to evaluate a cognitive task to determine how best to accomplish it, and then monitor and adjust performance on that task. (Problem solving).
- Social Development = friendship groups, self awareness and concept, self esteem, peer pressure and approval.....
- Awareness of self and others (not always)