

Transition from Middle School to High School – Further Along The Road to Independence

Parent Teacher Organization Meeting
Grade 8 parents

Wednesday, 26th April 2017



THE
AMERICAN
School of Bangkok

Agenda

- Differences between the Middle and High School – **social/emotional**
- Approaching High School with College in mind
- **academics**

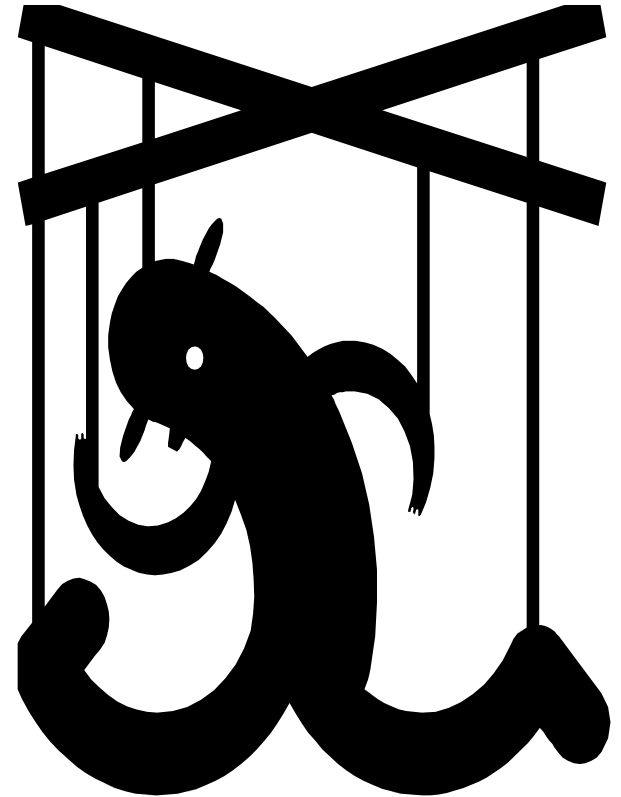
Emerging issues in 8th and 9th grade:

Freedom

Power

The issue is control.

You, the parent or guardian, has it and your teen wants it!



What form does gaining that independence take in High School?

Your teenager wants:

- - Control over their schedule - Later bedtimes and later curfews
- - Leeway and privacy
- - Control over their lives - Fewer parental intrusions into school and social life
- - To be given the privileges of an older teenager

The familiar cry of the teenager is

"That's not fair!"

They feel that the world is overrun with rules and restrictions.

“No!”

“Don’t do that!”

“Don’t forget to do this.”

These years can be quite stressful for parents as well!

Research shows ...

Parent's irritability towards their children increases as the child grows from 11 to 15. The number of times parents express negativity in conversation rises steadily, but the number of positive conversations doesn't tend to change.

(Issue Magazine, vol2)

How can you help make your child's gaining control and breaking away less stressful for them and for you?

- Discipline with **love**.
- There is a big difference between **discipline** and **control** – the trick is to master the first and relinquish the latter.

Choose your battles carefully.

Remember:

Conflict is inevitable.

Whether it is
constructive conflict
or
destructive conflict
is up to you.

Choose your battles carefully.

Allow your children to make both
choices and mistakes

Turn the mistake into a

learning experience

*Remember - wardrobes can be
changed and hair will grow back!*

some tips on discipline:

- **Consistent**
- **Appropriate** = “the punishment fits the crime” – it is best not to punish when you are angry
- **Results oriented** – if it works use it, if it doesn’t try something else (ex. grounding)
- **Focused on the issue not on the individual** – you know your child best (a very lonely child might not benefit from being sent to his/her room)

Positive Strategies...

- **Reinforce the good**
 - Teens are hungry for approval
- **Keep it positive!**
 - “Please keep your calls to 20 minutes.” Rather than “Don’t stay on the phone so long!”
- **Give choices as much as possible.**
 - “You can do your homework now or you can stay in this evening and not go to Joe’s.”

Let your 8th-going-on-9th grader know on a regular basis that:

- **You believe in them**
- **You trust them**
- **You know they can handle it**
- **They are listened to**
- **They are cared for**
- **They are very important to you**

So what can we do? Some tips...

- Remember your own adolescence to help you keep your perspective
- Listen more ...observe a lot ...talk less...

So what can we do?!

- Accept that you have feelings too – being a good parent doesn't mean being perfect
- Encourage other caring adults to spend time with your adolescent – offering further support, guidance and attention

So what can we do?!

- Model the ability to apologize when you feel your emotions get the best of you
- Be creative rather than pushing for drastic or dramatic solutions – sometimes adolescents just need time to sort through problems

Approaching High School with College in Mind

The real difference is...

- What happens in high school gets shared beyond high school
 - Universities consider a person's high school career in their admission decision
 - This is sometimes even true for future employers

It is important for students and their families to consider this and develop a plan for high school

Planning: Explore post HS options

- Plans change but having an idea of what the family can support four years from now will help you make informed decisions
- Do not rule out places or countries but be realistic
- Having goals can help a student stay focused
- Consider a savings plan
- Meet with our college counselor

Planning: Explore interests

- High school is a good time to find out about possible careers and majors
- Make time as a family to discuss possibilities
- Take advantage of opportunities that arise
 - Vacations, visitors, etc.
- As parents, it is important to listen

Planning: Get involved

- High grades and test scores do not guarantee a place in college – esp. in North America
- Students should be involved in activities, volunteer work, sports, etc.
- Students who can show a positive contribution to their community are going to get a closer look from competitive universities

Planning: Take on challenges

- Developing a service project, taking on a summer job, or volunteering at a charity can all be difficult but they can also help develop real life skills and set a student apart from others
- Work hard in grades 9 & 10 so that you are prepared for 11 & 12
- Take challenging courses
- Competitive universities want to see students who have challenged themselves

Planning: Build relationships

- Teachers, principals, counselors sometimes need to write references
- Earning a reputation as a positive, friendly person can be invaluable when adults are later asked for feedback on students.

Advice from older students...

- Two categories...
 - Relationships
 - School
 - Don't slack off!
 - Your teachers are more helpful than you think
- Another common comment is...
 - "I wish I had... "

It isn't too early to start thinking about the future

Pathways through High School - Science

<u>Course</u>	<u>Grade 9</u>	<u>Grade 10</u>	<u>Grade 11</u>	<u>Grade 12</u>
Science Interactions	?	transfer	-	-
Science Interactions (ELL)	?	transfer	-	-
Biology	TPR	?	-	-
Biology (ELL)	-	?	-	-
Chemistry	-	TPR	?	?
Earth Science/ Environmental Science	-	-	Elective	Elective
Nutrition Science/Anatomy	-	-	Elective	Elective
AP Biology	-	-	TPR	TPR
AP Chemistry	-	-	TPR	TPR
Physics	-	-	?	?

Pathways through High School - Math

<u>Course</u>	<u>Grade 9</u>	<u>Grade 10</u>	<u>Grade 11</u>	<u>Grade 12</u>
Topics of Math	?			
Algebra 1	?	?	-	-
Geometry	TPR	?	?	-
Algebra 2	-	TPR	?	?
Precalculus	-	-	TPR	?
Calculus/AP Calculus	-	-	-	TPR
Statistics	-	-	Elective (TPR)	Elective (TPR)

Pathways through High School - English

<u>Course</u>	<u>Grade 9</u>	<u>Grade 10</u>	<u>Grade 11</u>	<u>Grade 12</u>
LA/Skills 9/10	?	?	-	-
English I/II	?	?	-	-
Forms of Literature	?		-	-
World Literature	-	?	-	-
LA Skills 11/12	-	-	?	Elective
English III/IV	-	-	?	Elective
British Literature	-	-	Elective	Elective
Journalism	-	-	Elective	Elective
Creative Writing			Elective	Elective
Public Speaking			Elective	Elective
American Studies			Elective	Elective
AP English Language			Elective	Elective

Pathways through High School – Social Studies

<u>Course</u>	<u>Grade 9</u>	<u>Grade 10</u>	<u>Grade 11</u>	<u>Grade 12</u>
Geography	?	-	-	-
ELL Geography	?	-	-	-
World History	-	?	-	-
ELL World History	-	?	-	-
American Studies	-	-	Elective	Elective
Psychology	-	-	Elective	Elective
Asian Studies	-	-	Elective	Elective
AP World History	-	-	Elective	Elective
Civics & Economics	-	-	Elective	Elective

Grade 9 for 2017-18 – schedule

High School Schedule - 17-18										
	Week A					Week B				
Period/Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7:45-9:05	Block A	Block E	Block A	Block E	Block A	Block E	Block A	Block E	Block A	Block E
9:05-9:20	Morning Break					Morning Break				
9:20-9:40	Homeroom					Homeroom				
9:40-11:00	Block B	Block F	Block B	Block F	Block B	Block F	Block B	Block F	Block B	Block F
11:05-12:25	Block C	Block G	Block C	Block G	Block C	Block G	Block C	Block G	Block C	Block G
HS Lunch 12:25-1:05	Lunch					Lunch				
1:10-2:30	Block D	Block H	Block D	Block H	Block D	Block H	Block D	Block H	Block D	Block H

Grade 9 Schedule – 2017-18

	Block A	Block B	Block C	Lunch	Block D
Grade 9	LA/Skills 9/10	PE 9/10	Topics of Math		PE 9/10
	English I/II	Art Apprec	Algebra 1		Basic Thai 9-12
	Forms of Literature	Chinese I/II	Geometry		Chinese III/IV
	ELL 9/10 LA	Spanish I/II			Spanish III/IV
	ELL 9/10 Skills	World Geography			Comp Science

	Block E	Block F	Block G	Lunch	Block H
Grade 9	Science Interactions	Thai Studies 9/10	World Geography		Health
	Biology	Dance	ELL SS9		Comp Science
	ELL Science 9	French	PE 9		Music App
		HS Orchestra			Study Skills 9/10
		Comp Science			

Questions?

