

Middle School Parent Survivor's Sheet

How can I find out exactly what my child is doing every day in each class?

Rule #1: Communication is vital to having a positive and successful year.

First, check your child's agenda book and Orange Take-Home Folder every day... from Day 1. Contrary to what your child might tell you, he/she is supposed to write down the daily activities and any homework that he/she may have. Each teacher writes on the board what needs to be copied in the agenda book. To verify what your child has written down (especially if "NOTHING" or "WATCHED VIDEO,") access the teacher's web page and/or contact the teacher. Most teachers do a very good job at keeping the site updated. ***However, if nothing is posted or you have questions or concerns, please, contact the teacher.*** Students and parents are expected to use the school and teacher websites for assignments and Parent Portal to keep up with grades at <http://knoxschools.org/powellms>. If you do not have Internet access, please contact the teacher(s) so other arrangements can be made. Our school library can be accessed during the school day and the Public Library can be used during their scheduled hours.

What do I do if my child is absent or tardy?

If your child is TARDY due to illness, doctor's appointments, etc. then simply send the doctor's note or a written note to the office when your checks in the front office upon arrival. Tardies will be excused based on the description in the agenda. Your child will then take that tardy slip to his/her homeroom teacher to place in your child's file.

For early dismissal, if you know ahead of time that your child will be leaving school early, please send in a note for your child to give to his/her teacher at the beginning of class. This way your child will know when to come to the office instead of calling him/her over the intercom. **NO EARLY DISMISSALS AFTER 3:00 p.m.**

If your child was ABSENT or had an EARLY DISMISSAL, send a doctor's note or a parent note stating the reason for the absence. The absence will then be determine "excused" or "unexcused" based upon the agenda description. Please refer to the agenda book for the exact details and information of the attendance, tardy, and early dismissal policies.

How do I contact my child's teachers?

One of the most important things that a parent can do is to stay in touch/communicate with all teachers throughout the school year.

If you are seeing that your child is struggling, please contact the teacher directly via email (the quickest way) or you can call the school office and leave a message for the teacher to call you back. Feel free to call school number at 938-9008 between the hours of 7:45 a.m.-3:45 p.m. If you still see your child struggling or have additional questions, you are encouraged to contact the teacher to set up a parent conference. Most teachers like to meet as a team-meaning all of your child's teachers at one time. Although you may only have concerns in one class, we like for you to hear how your child is doing in all classes. Perhaps one of the other teachers can provide information or helpful ideas to improve in the one class that your child is struggling in. At this time, if you are still not satisfied with your child's progress, contact one of our guidance counselors or the grade level administrator. We will be glad to look into the situation for you and hopefully provide more information or advice.

How much homework will my child have?

If your child has 2 or 3 hours of homework, then you may need to check with the teachers to see why. Many times a child will not do the work in class (i.e. misbehaving, doesn't want to do it, doesn't understand it, etc.) Question your child, check the agenda book, check teacher website, and then if you have any questions or concerns, contact the teacher.

Rule #2: On the other hand, if your child is not bringing home anything to work on or to study on a regular basis, and especially if he/she says, "I did it at school," again, question your child, check the agenda, check school website, and then contact the teacher. One way to stop this, is to play, "Show and Tell." If your child says he/she has finished, tell him/her that you want to see it. If it was left at school, then you, as a parent, need to decide possible consequences at home. As a suggestion, be consistent in whatever method of consequence you choose. This is something that we have seen as a huge help to parents. However, please contact the teacher to verify that whether your child has had homework, tests, etc. to be completing or studying.

Where can I find my child's grades?

On our Powell Middle School website <http://knoxschools.org/powellms>, there is a link to Parent Portal. You will click on that and prompted to enter your username and password. Grades are typically updated 2-3 times per week..... not daily. Therefore, if you have any concerns or questions over grades, please contact the appropriate teacher.

Rule #3: Please do not wait to check on your child's grade until the week before progress reports are sent home.

How can Powell Middle School help my child?

If your child fails 2 subjects in a nine weeks period, then he/she is placed on Academic Intervention. In this program, your child will have a daily contract found in your child's Orange Take-Home Folder filled out by teachers and requiring you to sign each night. This allows you to see what your child is struggling in and make notes/comments to the teachers.

Other suggestions?

▸ Know your child's friends; Check your child's cell phone for text and picture messages.

Rule # 4▸ Closely monitor and have access to your child's text and picture messages, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Vine, and Kik accounts and any other forms of social media. Most school "drama" occurs from one of these sources. *Please be attentive to your child's friends and what they have to say on these types of media. Many times issues will start on Facebook and then carried over to school. Please monitor your child's activities and discourage any type of "drama" that can possibly come out of these social networks. Please review the cell phone and social media policies in your child's agenda.

Rule # 5 **Don't believe everything you hear about your child's teachers and the teachers won't believe everything your child says about you!*