I’ve learned a lot about middle school and middle school students over the last couple of years. No one told me that there was such a difference between my 5th grader and the kid that walked out of Davis after his first day of 6th grade. Some helpful hints I have for you…

Find the ‘parent-student’ heading on the school website: davis.ops.org

Under this you will find a copy of the daily announcements – these are read over the intercom several times a week, but many kids won’t be able to recall what was said, the you know, the famous ‘nothing’. This is where you can prompt your student to tell you about which clubs or activities are offered at Davis that he/she might be interested in joining. You’ll have the inside information on when and where your kid needs to sign up.

Encourage, bribe, and coerce your kid to get involved. Middle school is the time to try new things like sports, clubs, activities etc. Joining in gives your child a ‘leg-up’ on meeting new people and finding things that interest him or her. Kids who are involved in activities are better vested in their school. After-school activities help to keep your student out of trouble and off social media and video games when you are not home. Our son never played soccer before middle school. He found a new love for a sport and played himself up to starting a game in the city championship series. He met new friends, ended up in great physical condition, and was ready for the next sport season…AND stayed busy and out of trouble. Don’t give up on this one – it’s important. If your kid is not sporty, there are also many other options!

Join the PTO. No, PTO isn’t going to require you to sign your life away in volunteer hours. Your Davis PTO sends out periodic emails including important upcoming events and links to the minutes from our monthly meetings. If you can come to a meeting, please join us. Here’s your chance to find out about everything going on at school that your student won’t remember to tell you (suddenly in middle school there’s some sort of disconnect switch to a kid’s brain). I find it helpful to know about these activities and dates before my student does. Having in-person access to the principal every month is always good leverage when you’ve got a teenager. PTO is here most importantly to represent you and to inform you of what’s going on. If you can help for an hour once or twice a year with a project, that would be great too! If you do social media, both the school and the PTO have Facebook pages you can follow.

Lastly, don’t expect your kid to bring home a flyer to remind you about deadlines. Scientific studies show that most information flyers handed out to middle schoolers are in the bottom of lockers at the end of the school year.

Congratulations on making it to middle school. Welcome to our Aviator family!