

Applications for the Classroom

In the classroom

How can we get their attention?

- Building Apps for students to use gets their attention right away!
- They realise immediately that they can use applicable skills!
- Dealing with motivation and middle school children can sometimes be a challenge. These formative years bring a lot of changes to kids' lives, and it can be hard to know what types of activities and knowledge will keep them motivated. However, with the right ingredients and an understanding of how children see the world during their middle school years, you will find ways to encourage kids to go the extra distance.

Special information on Middle Schoolers

- Making it Relevant
- Students have a "me" mentality, so instruction must answer the question, "why is this important to me?" or "how does this relate to my world?" Teachers can accomplish this by getting to know students' interests and incorporating them into the curriculum. They can also bring real-life examples and stories into the classroom to help pique student interest.
- Relevance is particularly important in the areas of science and math, especially when it comes to girls. During the middle school years, girls often lose interest in science and math. According to a study by the University of Michigan, this is partly because girls do not see a connection between being feminine and being a successful scientist. A report from the Girl Scout Research Institute found that in order for science and math instruction to be effective for girls, it needed to:

What can we
do?

- Provide a lot of hands-on activities
- Emphasize how science can help people
- Provide examples of females who have been successful in scientific careers

Making it Entertaining

- While a teacher's main goal is not to entertain students, students cannot be expected to sit in their seats and take notes for an entire class period or participate in the same activities day after day. Teachers must make the classroom entertaining and engaging by allowing students to participate in a variety of hands-on activities, giving them opportunities to talk about what they're learning or work with their peers and regularly introduce new activities. Bringing technology into the classroom through web 2.0 applications, app development, Coding, games, and interactive white boards can also make learning more engaging and interesting for students.

What Encouraged Parents Can Do

- Even though they do not have as much influence as peers, parents can still play a role in motivating their middle schoolers. The [APA](#) offers three pieces of advice to help parent motivate middle school students:
- Encourage children to try new things
- Let them know failure is okay, if they try
- Remind them that learning takes effort
- In addition, parents can help prepare their middle schooler for success by providing systems of organization, teaching study skills and offering rewards for good performance. Regularly talking to your middle schooler and listening when there is a problem will help you recognize and support your middle schooler when problems arise.

Pay Attention

- Yes, PAY ATTENTION! One of the most tragic things to happen to children these days? A huge attention deficit caused by smartphones and distractions. Pay attention to your children or students and watch for the signs of a decrease in motivation. Dr. Robert Balfanz, an educational researcher suggests paying attention to the [ABCs of middle school syndrome](#): absenteeism, behavioural problems and course performance. The earlier you catch a problem and take action, the less likely it is to affect the rest of your child's middle school years and further education.
- ASK them what they enjoy more and less. Ask for elaboration/clarification to be sure you have understood.
- If you must ask them to do tasks which are less favourable, let them know that you are aware of how they feel about it but that you will make special effort to make it more pleasant.
- Use Kahoot for anonymous surveys, enabling students to feel heard and more in control.