

TOP 10 TIPS for NEW SUTTON MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

- 1. Get to know the teachers.** It's a good idea to meet each of your child's teachers. Ask about their expectations. Find out how much time your child should spend on homework each night. Find out whether there will be regularly scheduled tests and if so, when. Ask about the best way to get in touch if you have questions. Most Sutton teachers have **blogs or websites** for more information about their curriculum and schedule. Visit <http://www.suttonmiddleschool.org/faculty/teacherlisting.htm> for a preview.
- 2. Find a niche for yourself at your child's school.** Unlike in the lower grades, middle school classrooms don't need extra adults on hand. But you can volunteer in other ways. Serve as an adviser for an extracurricular activity such as the school paper, chess club, or science fair. Help out in the computer lab. Being in the school is a great way to get a feel for what goes on there. To find out more about what is going on at Sutton sign up for **Sutton Source** at <http://www.suttonmiddleschool.org/home/sourcesignup.htm>.
- 3. Do behind-the-scenes work.** If you can't be in school during the day, ask teachers and other school personnel to pass along some work that you can do on your own. Photocopy homework assignments; collect recyclables for a science or art project; serve on a parent-school advisory council; join your middle school PTA. Anyone in the community can join **Sutton PTA**. If you want to support the Sutton PTA now, please go to <http://www.suttonmiddleschool.org> and fill out the PTA Dues and Donation Form.
- 4. Volunteer to chaperone school dances, drive kids to school sports competitions or volunteer in the classroom.** You'll meet other parents, school staff, and your child's classmates.
- 5. Go to school meetings and events.** Attending concerts, plays, assemblies, meetings, and other activities is a good way to become familiar with your child's school community.
- 6. Find out about homework assignments and school tests.** Visit the Parent Portal @ <https://ic.apsk12.org/campus/portal/atlanta.jsp> to find instant access to accurate, current and confidential information about your child(ren)'s school attendance, grades, class assignments and more.
- 7. Talk to your child about school.** Ask specific questions to draw out your child. Ask "How do you think you did on the math test?" "Did Mr. Phipps say anything funny today?" "What games did you play in PE?" More about having a conversation at school.
- 8. Give your child a quiet place to study and do homework.** Find an area in your home that is free of distraction where your middle schooler can concentrate on homework. Be available to help if your child has a question.
- 9. Check your child's homework, but don't do it for her.** Offer to check math problems, proofread written papers, and look over spelling words. If you find a mistake, point it out to your child and help her figure out the correct answer.
- 10. Post a family calendar in a central place.** Write down important school dates, including parent meetings, due dates for projects, and tests. Encourage your middle schooler to add to the calendar and to check it daily.