



## Middle School Student Sound Off

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### **The Joys and Challenges of Middle School**

Starting middle school can feel like diving into a new adventure. Will learning be a breeze or a challenge? Will there be fun, or will it be all strict rules? As the first day ends, middle school turns out to be an exciting journey. The lessons are innovative and captivating, incorporating games that make learning both enjoyable and entertaining. Over time, it becomes clear that middle school is an amazing experience, full of enriching education and engaging activities that help students grow personally and academically, even though there are challenges in the journey.

One reason being a middle schooler is great is because of the education. In math, we learn different methods and formulas for solving equations, expressions, and real-world problems. In social studies, we explore the histories of countries like the U.K., France, Germany, the U.S., Canada, and Australia. As we learn about the countries around the world, we gain a better understanding of how the modern world came to be. We also study the geographic and political features of continents like Europe and countries like Canada. In science, we learn about Earth's history and how nature functions. We don't just study Earth, we also learn about famous historians that help us better understand the universe in which we live. In Language Arts, we master writing rules, such as correct punctuation placement, and learn to write various types of essays, including explanatory, argumentative, and narrative essays. In reading, we learn techniques to fully understand books and their stories. Our school library provides us with both the books we need for class and the ones we want to read for pleasure. Furthermore, we have fantastic connection classes such as P.E., Art, Health, Orchestra, Chorus, and Band, each teaching us unique lessons about their respective topics.

Another reason being a middle schooler is great is because of the activities. There are clubs like the International Club, Art Club, Intramurals, News Club, and the Reading Club. The activities in clubs are also engaging. In math, we participate in fun activities like solving problems in races or going on scavenger hunts. In social studies, we write down five facts and cross them out

as they are mentioned in documentaries. The last student with the most facts left after the documentary ends win! In Earth Science, we enjoy fun lab activities during each unit, working individually or in groups on hands-on or even edible labs! In Language Arts, we play review games about vocabulary before tests. In reading, we undertake projects like designing an amusement park based on the book we're currently reading or playing review games related to the book the entire class is reading.

Although middle school offers excellent education and engaging activities, students still face challenges. In math, tackling complex problems can be difficult, but participating in lessons, asking questions, and collaborating with classmates can help overcome these obstacles. In social studies, memorizing geographic and political features for tests can be daunting, but reviewing notes and playing review games can help students succeed.

In Earth Science, some students may struggle to understand the interconnected factors behind events such as the water cycle, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, and weather patterns. To overcome this challenge, hands-on and interactive activities demonstrate how these phenomena work and why they occur. In Language Arts, writing essays might not always be enjoyable. However, teachers motivate students by offering incentives, such as a small reward for the first five people who finish their essays or by promising to play review games after everyone completes their assignments. In reading, students may sometimes face a heavy workload. To conquer this challenge, practicing time management skills is essential for completing assignments on time.

In conclusion, there are numerous reasons why being a middle schooler is great, with the diverse educational opportunities, engaging activities, and the ability to overcome challenges being just a few of them. Middle school is a great time to learn new things and grow as a person. There are many opportunities to explore different subjects and activities, and students can develop important life skills like time management and problem-solving. Middle school can also be a challenging time, but it is important to remember that everyone is going through the same thing. With the support of friends, family, and teachers, middle school can be a positive and rewarding experience.