

Welcome to middle school! This is a time of great change in your student's life, but that change does not have to be scary. Actually, it can be a lot of fun if you are well prepared for it. Your student is going to start developing the skills and independence that will carry them into high school and then onto adulthood. Joining school athletic teams, participating in school dances, and involvement in school spirit weeks are all a part of the middle school social experience and will provide opportunities for your student to showcase the individual that they are becoming. Of course, academics also play an important role. This is the time when interests and skillsets start to develop around specific academic disciplines that often times determine a future career path. Most importantly, these are the years that establish your student's eternal future. The Barna Group's research shows that 94% of Christians made their decision to follow God before the age of 18, and that nearly half of all Americans who accept Jesus Christ do so before the age of 13 (43%). This is why we believe there is no better place to develop your student's future self than Sarasota Christian School!

Tips for Transitioning Well

- Ask your student what fears or concerns they may have about transitioning to middle school.
- Set expectations for academic performance, social relationships, and behavior in middle school.
- Talk with your student about the social and physical changes they can expect to experience in middle school.
- Set healthy boundaries for the use of technology, cell phones, and social media.
- Explain the importance of doing well in middle school and the role it plays in getting recommendations for on-level or advanced coursework in high school.
- Be familiar with the school handbook, rules, and grading policies as many of these things change when moving up to middle school.
- As a parent, volunteer and get involved in on-campus events. Your presence and involvement on campus makes a difference in your student's performance!
- Know what level of parental involvement your student needs. Yes, they are becoming young adults, but some students still need parental oversight while other students are ready for greater independence. Find the balance that keeps your student on the path to success!

School Counselor

Mental health concerns among teens have been skyrocketing. SCS is blessed to have a mental health counselor on staff who can infuse a biblical perspective into his discussions with students.

Tim Wilbanks has spent 40 years in Christian education as a teacher, principal, head administrator, and counselor. Mr. Wilbanks has a MS in Education Administration and Supervision from Bob Jones University and a MA in Professional Counseling from Liberty University. Along with a Lifetime Administrator Professional Certificate issued by Association of Christian Schools International, Tim is also a board-certified biblical counselor and a member of the American Association of Christian Counselors.

Please feel free to reach out and use his services as the need arises.

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