

Organization Skills for Middle School Success

Brought to you by the awesome 7th grade teachers of Cocopah
Represented by Laynee Langner (ELA) and Cheri Stegall (SS)

Required (MUST HAVE) Materials

Your student will have different needs for different classes; however, here are some basic “must haves” that will help keep them on track:

- Working backpack (no broken zippers or ripped pockets that things can fall from)
- Pencils, highlighters, colored pencils, glue sticks
- Notebook paper
- Color coded binders for each class that requires one (ie, red for math, blue for science, etc. Keep color consistent from year to year)
- Completed Homework folder!

Homework Tracking: To Agenda or Not To Agenda

Different homework trackers work for different students, and there are several options:

- Traditional written weekly agenda - works well if student is diligent about using it, or parents are checking it with the student**
- Using phone to take picture of homework assignments (with teacher permission) AND if this is how your student tracks homework**
- Setting phone reminders (with teacher permission)**
- Checking Synergy Calendar and/or Class Website Post in Synergy**

At Home

Remember, the question you need to ask your student is not, “*Do* you have any homework?” but rather, “*What* homework do you have?” There will always be homework in middle school.

- Create a distraction-free homework zone - remove all other papers, books, technology, cats, small children, etc. from the area.
- Have a set time or routine for homework completion.
- If the assignment(s) is/are time consuming, allow timed breaks.
- If an assignment is a long-term project, break it down into manageable segments to ensure completion!

Parental Oversight vs Micro-Management

- 1. You're probably going to need to ask about homework. Unless you have a self starter (that's the dream) be sure to ask what homework your student has.**
- 2. Every few weeks, ask if they have all the supplies they need, and don't believe them when they tell you yes. Ask how many pencils they have, make them show you the notebook paper, and make sure they have lead for those mechanicals. Please have them restock occasionally.**

Parental Oversight vs Micro Management

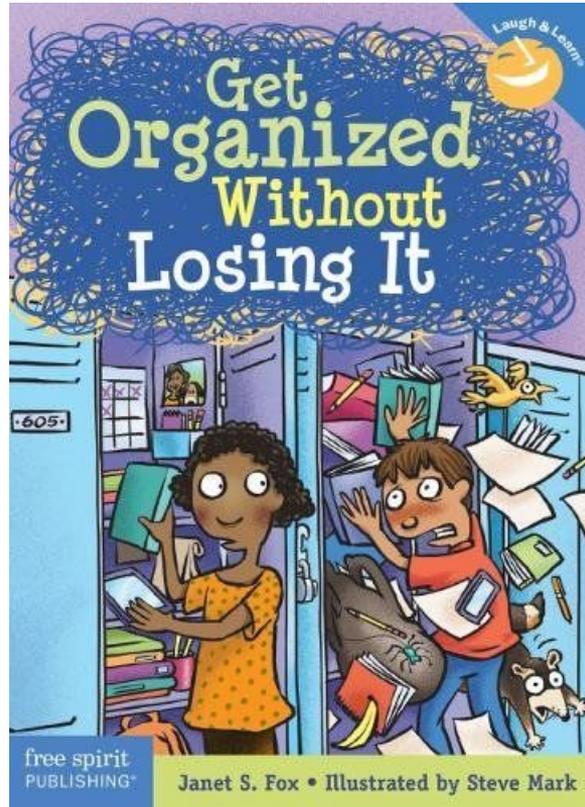
3. About every two weeks, clean out that black hole, AKA their backpack. Students tend to stuff papers into whatever folder they can, or just into the bottomless pit. They should get rid of what they don't need, and put things in their proper place. Just supervise this: they can do it on their own, and should be able to handle it once they've been shown how to do it once or twice!

Embrace what works for your student

Though you may swear by your daily to-do list, your (pre) teen may prefer a more visual strategy, or to use an online tool, or set phone reminders. Times have changed and so has the technology they rely on. Talk to them, offer options, whatever works is absolutely fine. It may take a few tries to determine what will be the best fit. Just remember, the best organizational skills for students are those that work for *your* child.

Get Organized Without Losing It Janet S. Fox, Free Spirit Publishing

\$9.99



**Thank you so very much for joining us
this evening, and have a wonderful year
here at Cocopah Middle School!**