

June 15, 2017

Dear Sixth Grader,

Welcome to middle school. You might be feeling a little nervous today, but it is not as scary as you think. Middle school is awesome. First, there is a snack bar in the cafeteria. Try the buffalo wraps. Second, you get to walk with friends to class – no more lining up at the door and walking in lines like baby ducklings following a mother duck. Most importantly, you hardly have homework. Let me back up. At the beginning of the year, I had lots of homework. I was buried alive in homework because I constantly “lost” it. Luckily, I figured out how to slay that dragon.

To slay the dragon, follow Middle School Rule #1: hand in homework on time. Do NOT use the-dog-ate-my-homework excuse. Believe me, I’ve used better ones, like my mom shredded it to line my hamster cage. It doesn’t work. If you can’t find your homework, you will become the target of the teachers’ stink eye. You know that squinty look they give you when they don’t believe you are telling the truth, and it feels like everyone in the room just vanished, leaving you to defend yourself against a fire-breathing dragon. You know...all teachers have it.

Honestly, I did do my homework. Well, most of the time, but it always seemed like I didn’t because I’d get to class and couldn’t find it. Now, I hand in my work because I learned the secret to repelling stink eye: homework binders. Who knew life could be so easy? I know which assignments are done and which ones are not done. Not only that, it stores other important things I need for class. If I were you, I’d make a stink-eye repellent binder, otherwise known as a homework binder ASAP (as soon as possible). You will need these five things:

1. A **1-inch, 3-ring binder** stores the following things.
2. A **student planner** to write down assignments from all the different teachers.
3. A **pencil pouch** to hold pencils, pens, and highlighters. The next worst thing to showing up to class without homework is not having something to write with.
4. Add **lined paper** to get work done during class instead of after school.

5. A **pocket folder** to store the “done” and “not done” handouts. I know where they are when I have time to work on them or when the teachers ask for them.

The homework is to a student like water is to a firefighter. A firefighter shows up to a fire with water, and not just a little, enough to get the job done! Life is easy when you show up to class with assignments done, and not just partially done, but done, done -- enough done to avoid the stink eye of any fire-breathing dragons. Good luck.

Sincerely,

Jack B. Nimble