

Madison-Grant Junior High

Junior High School is the perfect time to start thinking about the future. Now is the time to make smart choices that help you succeed in school, complete college and connect to a career.

7th Grade Year:

- **Begin Volunteering** – See if you can help with a project in your school or community, sort items at the local food bank or lend a hand at a charity event
- **Read for Fun** – Nearly any type of reading will increase your vocabulary and improve your test scores. You can read library books, magazines or online news
- **Sign up to be a 21st Century Scholar** at www.scholars.in.gov – Income eligible students who fulfill a promise of good citizenship and good grades will receive college financial aid upon completion of high school

8th Grade Year:

- **Start looking at Indiana colleges** and the majors they offer. Connect the college options to your career interests
- **Make a graduation plan for your high school courses** – each 8th grade student will have the opportunity to make their graduation plan with the assistance of Mrs. Mealy
- **Will you have a job this school year or summer** – even if it is mowing neighborhood lawns or babysitting? Make a commitment to save part of your money for college expenses

PLANNING – The future belongs to you!!!

Do you need reasons why a college education is your ticket to success? There are hundreds of reasons – but here are just a few:

1. You'll make more money. Full-time workers with a college degree earn \$20,000 more each year on average with a four year college degree than those with just a high school diploma.
2. You'll live a healthier, fuller life. College grads are more likely to volunteer, vote and see the world.
3. You're more likely to get (and keep) a job. Unemployment rates for college graduates are about half that of high school graduates, even during a recession.

PARENT POWER! - Engage with Learning

Research shows that students whose parents are engaged in their learning are more likely to:

- Enjoy school more
- Earn better grades and test scores
- Graduate high school and complete college

Parents need to Expect More – Make a good education the expectation at home.

Keep checking homework – Junior high school is a time of independence, but parents are still students' first and most important teacher. Ask about your child's day at school and check their homework.

Get to know the teacher – A teacher plays a pivotal role in your student's future academic success.

Offer praise and encouragement – Words can have a profound effect on children and adults alike. Take a few moments every day to praise your child and encourage them to do their very best in school.

Information provided by the OnTrack Magazine and LearnMoreIndiana.org