

Being in the Middle isn't Easy

By: Edward Chang

I was devastated. Why? Why? I worked so hard, why had this happened, why did I let this happen? I couldn't believe it. After my countless hours of work, skipping two days of school, none of it matters anymore. I was out. Ever since I started robotics in seventh grade, I had one goal in mind, to win the world's tournament. Although we had a good start to the year, after that it was not so well. It was constant trial and error, mistakes, and pain. I had tests almost every week, pop quizzes, endless amounts of homework, hockey practice, my extra curricular courses, and on top of all that my robotics team was not co-operating. This gave me no time to work,

sleep, or anything else. I was getting only a few hours of sleep every night, getting bad grades on my tests, and not doing my homework. With all that I kept going, I knew I could achieve my goal, and I knew I had to. Two weeks before the state tournament, our team coder suddenly quit us and I had to improvise and code my own program 4 days before the state tournament. Every day when I came home from school I kept working until almost morning. I skipped two days of school pretending to be "sick" just so I could work on the program I had to do last second. But, on the day of the tournament, all good became worse. Now there were no good

things left, it was just bad and worse. We had not made it to a qualifying position, and we were out. Even though I spent so many hours of my life working towards this goal, building the best robot, coding the best program I could make, it was all a waste. Well, that's how I felt at least. I couldn't sleep or have any emotions for a month. I was devastated as I watched my peers go to worlds, although i was happy for them of course, i was too shattered to have any emotions. And on top of all that, I had to grind my school grades back up by the end of the year. I told myself; I would never let this happen again.

From the sixties when life was "groovy" to the eighties when life was "like, totally, awesome," teens have a language all their own. According to University of Buffalo's Adrián Rodríguez-Riccelli, professor in the Romance Languages and Literatures Department these weird words and phrases are "jargon vocabulary that comes from culture."

Think of it as kind of an inside joke shared with friends. When someone needs a new word for something or wants to give an old word a cool, new twist then it becomes "rad."

Sometimes the words are just silly or taken from a song, social media or TV. In the seventies there were "nerds" who were told to "sit on it" and in the eighties Bart Simpson told everyone to "eat my shorts." All we know is you don't want to be "square" or "cruising for a brusin" if the word or phrase you use is "what the sigma?" So to be "like totally tublar" and "da bomb" you need to "get with the program" and learn some new "fresh" words before someone tells you to "talk to the hand."

**The Words We
are Using:**

Rizz
COOKED
Skibidi
Bet Sigma

Today's Middle Schoolers

The tweens in between
are in a space of their own

Design By:
Emerson Whittaker



Don't Try To Box Them in

Think you know today's middle schoolers? They've changed over the years

By: Emerson Whittaker

Being a middle schooler had gotten exponentially more difficult and more stressful since our parents' generation.

According to a study published by Transforming Education, 50 percent of middle school students feel constant pressure over homework. From a poll from the same study, 70 percent of middle schoolers suffer from anxiety. For reference, in 1992 the same poll was given to middle schoolers and only 32 percent responded that they suffer from anxiety from school.

Additionally, according to a study done at Stanford University, homework levels have greatly increased in the last thirty years. However, this is a difficult statistic to track. A poll among students at Stanford found that 76 percent of students found homework as a primary cause of stress throughout their school career.

Stephanie Hepbur writer and co-founder of Crisis talk reports that the Pandemic truly impacted middle schoolers. "The growth of callers ages 11 to 14 are rapidly rising. Between 2019 and 2020, outreach from this age group increased by 41%, spiking from 2,235 to 5,360 callers."

Since Covid, the percentage of adolescents 11 to 14 expressing loneliness and isolation has doubled from 5% to 10%. "This is likely an effect of community shutdowns and adjustment to online school," says Emily Moser, MEd, MPA, director of Youthline.

In the publication entitled Her campus, Lena Buttermann said that even though she and her sister

aren't that many years apart she sees the differences between herself in college and her fourteen year old sibling.

"It's no secret that middle schoolers these days are *much* more 'rambunctious' than today's college kids were that age," she said. "Middle school is known for being the awkward phase. Everyone's body is growing and changing at different rates, hormones are kicking in, and kids are finally figuring out what social groups they fit in with. These days, kids are skipping that entire stage of life. It's like they can't or they are expected to grow up too fast. When did we stop letting kids be kids? My fourteen year old sister is talking about college like she's going there tomorrow."

Whether it's trying to figure themselves out or figure out the world around them, middle school is the time to lean into the hard conversations. Even though adults have gone through their terrible tweens, it's important to remember that the road is different for everyone. Today's middles have more on their plate and sometimes feel boxed in.

A modern middle schooler's life is different than those of their older siblings and even their parents. It's up to us to allow them the opportunity to find their way. Sometimes they'll fall and that's ok. Sometimes they'll retreat into their box and sometimes they'll break it down. It's all part of the process of being in the middle. Embrace their passions. It's crucial to their growth. Just remember not to box them in.

How well do you know today's middle schoolers?

Take this quiz and see how well you know today's preteen



1. Which one of these is the most popular clothing brand among middle schoolers today?
- A. Jordan B. Champion
C. Essentials D. Nike



6. What does Skibidi (pronounced skip-pity) as an adjective mean?
- A. Awesome B. Cool, bad, dumb
C. People D. food

2. It was 2018 when the class of 2029 was in Kindergarten
- A. True B. False

7. When a student is "cooked" they are what?
- A. In a bad situation B. good to go
C. Making dinner D. hungry



3. What generations are today's middle school students?
- A. Generation Alpha B. Generation Z
C. Both D. None of the above



8. According to BetterSleep, what time a day are middle schoolers most tired?
- A. After lunch B. Morning
C. Late afternoon D. Night

4. How many students do we have in our eighth grade?
- A. 50 B. 52 C. 55 D. 60

9. According to StartQuestion, what subject do middle schoolers find most difficult?
- A. Math B. Science
C. English D. History E. PATH

5. What model Iphone is most popular according to a poll from Kids Health?
- A. Iphone 15 B. Iphone 16
C. Iphone 13 D. Iphone 22

10. What is every MSB students favorite bird?
- A. Cardinal B. Goose
C. Crane D. Duck

