

Family Council Survey
Spring 2025
Comments – Transition to Middle School

My oldest son is struggling to thrive in his current school. He's just different than his age group. He's not interested in the things they like and at such a small school he doesn't have "his people" to be friends with. He has constant anxiety about going to school and who is going to make fun of him on any given day. We've brought it up to his teacher and counseling staff and they all see him "playing with friends" etc. We know he's just trying his best to fit in when he knows he doesn't belong. He says he doesn't want to move schools now so we're sticking through 5th grade next year, trying to get into the community lab school, and if that fails, exiting the public school system for him.

Because as a parent AND a middle school teacher I see the need for these areas to improve. There is almost no support for children entering middle school....

My son is in 4th grade and has spent a good part of this year with increased anxiety over his transition to middle school. Our local middle schools do not have positive reputations, and safety is a concern. Weapons and bullying are more prevalent than ever in our society and not all administrators take bullying seriously or have effective plans for dealing with parent concerns. This is troubling. We are not in a position to pull our child out for his middle school years to attend a private school like many families. We are products of public school and want to believe in them. Convince me my child will be safe and have access to the reading support he will likely continue to need in his middle school years.

Currently at burley middle school our high- achieving students are completely forgotten. There is definitely sense of a if it's "not broke don't fix it". Administrators do not see this as a problem which is the problem.

My son is small for his age and I worry about bullying as he transitions into middle school. Will it be noticed and how will I know about any issues before they become serious?

Bullying is pervasive and not addressed adequately in middle school

I would like my students to succeed and become better learners. Parents need to stay informed about school's curriculum and students' progress. More homework and school related activities should be sent home weekly.

My child will be in fifth grade next year and among our peer group there is some discussion of choosing private school for middle school vs ACPS. It would be helpful for both my child and me to understand what the transition to middle school is like and how I can best support my child during this period.