

School Attitudes WUH V6011-V6031 MD.

There are many differences between junior high/middle school and elementary school. Some children have an easier time adjusting to these differences than do other children. In this section we ask how your child has adjusted to junior high/middle school and for your views of his/her school.

1) How well is your child adjusting to junior high/middle school?

V6012. not at all well 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 very well 1:31

2) Below we have listed some problems that children may face as they begin junior high/middle school. Has your child been bothered by any of the following changes since s/he entered junior high/middle school? (Use the scale below to rate each item.)

not at all 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 very much

V603 a) changes in grading policies from elementary school. 1:32

V604 MD. V604 b) having different teachers for different subjects 1:33

V605 MD. V605 c) making it to their next class on time 1:34

V606 d) making new friends 1:35

V607 e) pressure to do what everyone else is doing 1:36

V608 f) having to shower and dress at school for gym classes 1:37

V609 g) other students' use of drugs or alcohol 1:38

V610 h) violence or fighting in the school 1:39

V611 i) other _____ 1:40

3) Since your child entered junior high/middle school, how has his/her general attitude toward school changed? V621-1:41-42

V623. become much worse 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 become much better 1:43

4) Since your child entered junior high/middle school, how has his/her general attitude toward math changed?

V624. become much worse 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 become much better 1:44

Transitions in School Life

FALL QUESTIONNAIRE

Parent Survey - Wave 3

Please fill in your name, your relationship to your child (mother, father, etc.), your child's math teacher and school.

1:01 CODE=1
1:02-23 CODE-ID
1:24 BLANK

- V6001 CASE
- 6002 HOUSE
- 6003 CLASS
- 6004 TCHR.
- 6005 SCHOL.
- 6006 DISTRICT
- 6007 DISTRICT
- 6008 NAME

Child's name _____

Parent or Guardian's name _____
(Please print both first and last name)

Relationship to child: _____
01) mother
02) father
03) stepmother
04) stepfather
05) other: _____

Child's Math Teacher _____

Child's School _____

V610 V6011

1:27-30

If you return this questionnaire within 2 weeks it will save our project some expense and in return we will make a contribution to the math program at your child's school.

Please do not return unused questionnaires to us!

5. Use the scale below to rate each of the following items.

much less concerned 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 much more concerned

Compared to how your child felt in elementary school, is s/he now more or less concerned about

- V602 a) grades in general? 1:45
V603 b) grades in math? 1:46
V604 c) how able s/he is in math? 1:47
V605 d) how able s/he is in sports? 1:48
V606 e) how many friends s/he has? 1:49
V607 f) how popular s/he is in general? 1:50
V608 g) how popular s/he is with children of the opposite sex? 1:51

6) Now use this scale to rate each of the next statements.

strongly disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 strongly agree

Now that my child is in (junior high/middle school):

- V609 a) s/he takes on more responsibilities. 1:52
V610 b) s/he is more difficult to get along with. 1:53
V611 c) s/he is more concerned about his/her appearance. 1:54
V612 d) s/he is more involved in social activities. 1:55
V613 e) s/he takes school work more seriously. 1:56
V614 s/he is clumsier. 1:57
V615 s/he is closer to me because we can now share more adult interests. 1:58
V616 s/he seeks my advice more often. 1:59
V617 s/he is less interested in school. 1:60
V618 s/he socializes more with members of the opposite sex. 1:61
V619 s/he is now more concerned with what his/her friends think than what I think. 1:62

7) Parents may have some concerns as their child enters junior high or middle school. Please rate how concerned you are about each of the following using the scale below.

not at all worried 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 very worried

- V620 a) I worry that my child will become involved with drugs or alcohol during junior high/middle school. 1:63
V621 b) I worry about fighting and violence at my child's junior high/middle school. 1:64
V622 c) I worry that my child will get in with the wrong crowd of friends in junior high/middle school. 1:65
V623 d) I worry that my child will start skipping school now that s/he is in junior high/middle school. 1:66

8) The following questions ask what you think junior high/middle schools should be doing for students in general. Use the scale below to rate each item.

strongly disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 strongly agree

WDH V6041-V6056 WD.

I think junior high/middle schools:

- V6047 a) should be teaching the basics more than they do. 1:67
V6048 b) should emphasize occupational skills more than they do. 1:68
V6049 c) should emphasize critical/logical thinking skills more than they do. 1:69
V6050 d) should be teaching computer literacy more than they do. 1:70
V6051 e) should provide more emotional and social support for children. 1:71
V6052 f) should provide more counseling for course selection and career decisions. 1:72
V6053 g) should enforce stricter discipline codes. 1:73
V6054 h) should notify parents if their child is breaking rules and let the parents discipline their child. 1:74
V6055 i) should discipline children at school for breaking school rules. 1:75
9) In general, how satisfied are you with the job your child's junior high/middle school is doing? not at all satisfied 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 very satisfied 1:76
10) In general, has moving into a self-contained sixth grade in a middle school setting been a positive or negative experience for your child? very negative experience 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 very positive experience 1:77
11) What advantages or disadvantages have you noticed for your child in being in a self-contained sixth grade in a middle school building? Advantages: Disadvantages: 1:78-79

10) Now think about your child in particular. How well do you think your child's junior high/middle school is meeting your child's needs in each of these areas? Use the following scale to rate each item.

not at all well 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 very well

VB601 a) courses available VB6 MD.

VB602 b) teaching basic skills

VB603 c) offering special courses like sports, music, and art

VB604 d) providing after school activities

VB605 e) communicating with parents

VB606 f) providing technical equipment (like computers, microscopes, typewriters, etc.)

VB607 g) counseling for course selection and career decisions. VB6 MD.

VB608 h) providing discipline

11) School districts may use different organizational systems. For example, some districts keep children in neighborhood-based schools through the eighth or ninth grade and then move children into a 3 or 4 year community high school. Other districts send children to middle or junior highs between elementary school and high school. Check which organizational plan you think would have been best for your child's social and intellectual development. Please check only one plan.

- 1) Kindergarten - 8th grades in elementary school, and 9th - 12th grades in high school
- 2) Kindergarten - 9th grades in elementary school, and 10th - 12th grades in high school
- 3) Kindergarten - 5th grades in elementary school, 6th - 8th grades in middle school, and 9th - 12th grades in high school
- 4) Kindergarten - 5th grades in elementary school, 6th - 9th grades in middle school, and 10th - 12th grades in high school
- 5) Kindergarten - 6th grades in elementary school, 7th - 8th grades in junior high, and 9th - 12th grades in high school
- 6) Kindergarten - 6th grades in elementary school, 7th - 9th grades in junior high, and 10th - 12th grades in high school
- 7) Kindergarten - 12th grades (all grade levels within small neighborhood schools)
- 8) Other: VB609 2:34-35

Math

In this section we will be asking your views on your child's skills in math and his/her attitudes toward math. This section is similar to the last survey because we are trying to look at changes in attitudes and behavior over time. Please answer each question by circling the number that best shows how you feel now.

VB601) In general I believe that my child is

not at all good at math 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 very good at math

2:25

2:26

VB602) My child finds math

very easy 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 very hard

2:27

2:28

VB603) My child finds math

very boring 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 very interesting

2:30

2:31

2:32

VB604) How important is it to you that your child do well in math?

not at all important 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 very important

2:39

VB605) How important is it to you that your child do well in school in general?

not at all important 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 very important

2:40

VB606) How well is your child doing in math this year?

not at all well 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 very well

2:41

VB607) Do you believe that your child is presently doing as well as s/he could do in math?

not as well as possible 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 as well as possible

2:42

VB608) What is the lowest grade or evaluation your child could get in math that would satisfy you?

2:43-44

9. What grade in math do you expect your child to get this term? _____ 2:45-46

110) How upset would you be if your child got a low grade or evaluation in math?
 not at all very
 upset
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

121) I feel that it is important for my child to do better in math than other children in his/her classroom.
 strongly disagree agree
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

122) To do well in math, my child has to try
 a little a lot
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

123) How much will your child have to try in order to do well in future math courses?
 a little a lot
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

124) If your child worked harder at math, how much would his/her performance in math improve?
 a little a lot
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

125) How much does your opinion about your child's math ability matter to your child?
 a little a lot
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

126) How much can you do to insure that your child achieves at a high level in math?
 a little a lot
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

127) How successful do you think your child would be in a career requiring math ability?
 not at all very successful
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

In this section we will be asking your views on your child's skills in English and his/her attitudes toward English. By English we mean reading, writing, spelling, and grammar skills. Please answer each question by circling the number that best shows how you feel now.

128) In general I believe that my child is
 not at all good very good
 at English at English
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 2:55

129) My child finds English
 very easy very hard
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 2:56

130) My child finds English
 very boring very interesting
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 2:57

131) How important is it to you that your child do well in English?
 not at all very
 important important
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 2:58

132) How well is your child doing in English this year?
 not at all well very well
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 2:59

133) What is the lowest grade or evaluation your child could get in English that would satisfy you?
 _____ 2:60-61

134) What grade in English do you expect your child to get this term?
 _____ 2:62-63

135) To do well in English, my child has to try
 a little a lot
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 2:64

136) If your child worked harder at English, how much would his/her performance in English change?
 a little a lot
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 2:65

2:66 2:67
V6104(1) How much does your opinion about your child's English ability matter to your child?
a little 1 2 3 4 5 6 a lot 7

V6105(11) How much can you do to insure that your child achieves at a high level in English?
a little 1 2 3 4 5 6 a lot 7

V6106(12) How successful do you think your child would be in a career requiring English ability?
not at all 1 2 3 4 5 6 very successful 7

Making Friends

In this section we are asking for your views about the social area of your child's life. We are particularly interested in his/her skill at making friends. Please circle the number that best shows how you feel now.

V6107(1) In general how good is your child at making friends?
not at all good 1 2 3 4 5 6 very good 7

V6108(2) My child finds making friends
very easy 1 2 3 4 5 6 very hard 7

V6109(3) How important is it to you that your child be good at making friends?
not at all important 1 2 3 4 5 6 very important 7

V6110(4) How important is it to you that your child participate in organized clubs or community/church groups?
not at all important 1 2 3 4 5 6 very important 7

V6111(5) How concerned is your child about his/her appearance?
very little 1 2 3 4 5 6 very much 7

V6104 How much do social interests interfere with your child's achievement in school?
not at all 1 2 3 4 5 6 very much 7

V6105 7) To make friends, my child has to try
a little 1 2 3 4 5 6 a lot 7

V6106 8) In your opinion is it more important for boys or girls to participate in organized social activities like clubs or community/church groups? (Check one answer.)
1) much more important for girls than boys
2) a little more important for girls than boys
3) about equally important for girls and boys
4) a little more important for boys than girls
5) much more important for boys than girls

Sports

In this section we are asking for your views on your child's skill in sports and attitudes toward sports. Please circle the number that best shows how you feel now.

V6107 1) In general how good is your child in sports?
not at all good 1 2 3 4 5 6 very good 7

V6108 2) My child finds sports
very easy 1 2 3 4 5 6 very hard 7

V6109 3) My child finds sports
very boring 1 2 3 4 5 6 very interesting 7

V6110 4) How important is it to you that your child do well in sports?
not at all important 1 2 3 4 5 6 very important 7

V6111 5) How important is it to you that your child participate in organized sports?
not at all important 1 2 3 4 5 6 very important 7

6) How much does participation in sports interfere with your child's achievement in school:

V6112 not at all 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 very much 3:25

7) How well is your child doing in sports this year?

V6113 not at all well 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 very well 3:26

8) To do well in sports, my child has to try

V6114 a little 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 a lot 3:27

9) If your child tried harder in sports, how much would his/her performance in sports improve?

V6115 a little 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 a lot 3:28

10) How much does your opinion about your child's athletic ability matter to your child?

V6116 a little 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 a lot 3:29

11) How much can you do to insure that your child does well in sports?

V6117 a little 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 a lot 3:30

12) I feel that it is important for my child to do better in sports than other children on the same team or in the same activity group.

V6118 strongly disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 strongly agree 3:31

13) How much emphasis is placed on sports in your child's school curriculum?

V6119 too little 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 too much 3:32

14) In your opinion is it more important for boys or girls to participate in organized sports?

V6120 1) much more important for girls than boys
2) a little more important for girls than boys
3) about equally important for girls and boys
4) a little more important for boys than girls
5) much more important for boys than girls 3:33

Family Attitudes

As your child matures, your relationship with her/him may begin to change. In this section we ask for your views about your current relationship with your child and family decision-making. Use the scale below to rate each of the following statements.

never true 1 sometimes true 2 usually true 3 always true 4

V6121 1) I want my child to follow my directions even if s/he disagrees with my reasons. 3:34

V6122 2) I worry that my child is up to something I won't like. 3:35

V6123 3) My child has to ask my permission to do most things. 3:36

V6124 4) I trust my child to do what I expect without checking up on her/him. 3:37

V6125 5) I do not like my child to disagree with me if my friends are around. 3:38

V6126 6) My child does not know why s/he is supposed to do what I tell her/him to do. 3:39

V6127 7) My child counts on me to solve many of his/her problems. 3:40

V6128 8) My child often argues with me about my rules and decisions for him/her. 3:41

V6129 9) My child acts very mature for his/her age. 3:42

V6130 10) I encourage my child to give his/her ideas and opinions even if we might disagree. 3:43

V6131 11) I find that listening to what my child has to say helps me reach a better decision. 3:44

12) In general, how do you and your child currently arrive at decisions? (Check one answer.)

- 1) I tell my child just what to do.
2) I ask my child how s/he feels and then I decide.
3) I tell my child how I feel and then s/he decides.
4) I usually let my child decide.

13) How should decisions be made in your family? (Check one answer.)

- 1) I should tell my child just what to do.
2) I should ask my child how s/he feels and then I should decide.
3) I should tell my child how I feel and then s/he should decide.
4) I should let my child decide.

14) How often does your child now take part in making family decisions that concern her/himself? (Check one answer.)

- 1. never 2. seldom 3. often 4. always

15) How often should your child take part in making family decisions that concern her/himself? (Check one answer.)

V6135 1) never 2) seldom 3) often 4) always 3:48

16) As a parent of this child would you say you are: (Check one answer.)

V6136 1) very strict 2) strict 3) a little strict 4) not at all strict 3:49

17) How often do you ask your child what s/he thinks about the news or a current event? (Check one answer.)

V6137 1) never 2) seldom 3) often 4) always 3:50

18) Use the scale below to rate your opinion on each of the following statements.

strongly disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 strongly agree

V6138 a) It is important for children to respect their parents and not question their decisions. 3:51

V6139 b) It is important that children feel free to question their parents' decisions. 3:52

V6140 c) It is usually better for everyone involved if the man is the "breadwinner" outside the home and the woman takes care of the home and family. 3:53

V6141 d) Babies and young children are likely to suffer if the mother works outside the home. 3:54

V6142 e) A working mother can establish just as warm and secure a relationship with her children as a mother who does not work. 3:55

V6143 f) It is just as important for girls to be prepared to support themselves and their families as it is for boys to be prepared to support themselves and their families. 3:56

V6144 g) Women who aren't willing to take some time off from their careers probably shouldn't have children. 3:57

V6145 h) Women are better wives and mothers if they have a paid job outside of the home. 3:58

Adolescence

As children enter puberty they may begin to change physically and emotionally. We are interested in knowing about how physically mature your child is. Based upon your knowledge of physical changes in your child's development, please answer the following questions. This section is almost the same as the last survey because we are trying to pinpoint the transition into puberty so that we can compare it to changes in attitudes and behavior. Please answer these questions again even if there has been little change for your child.

V6146 1) Is your child a 1) female 2) male 3:59

V6147 2) Would you say that your child has entered puberty yet? 1) yes 2) no 3:60

V6148 3) How tall is your child? ft. V6149 in. 3:61-65

V6150 4) How much has s/he grown during the last 6 months? inches 3:66-69

V6151 5) How much does your child weigh? lbs. 3:70-72

V6152 6) One of the signs of puberty is a sudden growth spurt, for example, a child suddenly outgrows his/her pants or shirts. Has your child had such a growth spurt in the last 6 months? 1) yes 2) no 3:73

V6153 7) For parents of daughters who are in this study:

V6154 a) Has your daughter begun to menstruate? 1) yes 2) no 3:74

V6155 b) If yes, about how long ago did this event occur? months 3:75-76

8) Listed below are some other bodily changes that occur in boys and girls during puberty. Please check those which currently apply to your child.

- Boys: V6156 a) Hair becoming more oily, V6157 c) Noticeable change in voice tone, V6158 d) Noticeable increase in muscle strength, V6159 e) Appearance of pubic hair. Girls: V6156 a) Hair becoming more oily, V6157 c) Appearance of "breast buds", V6158 d) Evidence of breast development beyond the "breast bud" stage, V6159 e) Appearance of pubic hair.

9) Please use this scale to rate each of the following statements about your child.

never 1 sometimes 2 usually 3 always 4

- V6170 a) My child is even-tempered and not moody. 4:25
- V6171 b) My child gives up when faced with a difficult problem or situation. 4:26
- V6172 c) My child keeps to him/herself or tends to withdraw. 4:27

10) Children around the age of your son/daughter are sometimes called "early adolescents". We are interested in your opinions about this time of life. Use the scale below to rate each of the following.

strongly disagree 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 strongly agree

- V6173 a) Early adolescence is a difficult time of life for children and their parents. 4:28
- V6174 b) The most sensible approach to early adolescence is to relax and realize that in time things will get better. 4:29
- V6175 c) Early adolescents are so influenced by their friends that what adults say or do matters very little. 4:30
- V6176 d) There are lots of things parents can do to make their relationship with their early adolescents a good one. 4:31
- V6177 e) Changes in hormones make early adolescence a difficult period of life. 4:32
- V6178 f) Young adolescents are so concerned with how they look that it is difficult for them to focus on schoolwork. 4:33

V6179 g) Junior high/middle school teachers can have a powerful influence on early adolescents. 4:34

V6180 h) Changes in behavior during early adolescence are mainly due to the physical changes which are occurring. 4:35

V6181 i) Junior high/middle schools can be very successful with early adolescents only if they make a special effort to meet the changing needs of this age group. 4:36

11) Do boys and girls experience different problems during early adolescence? 4:37

V6172 1. yes 2. no

12) If yes, what are the differences? 4:38-39

V6173 4:38-39

V6174 4:40-41

General Comparisons
JUNIOR HIGH GRADE

1) How that your child has entered (junior high/middle school) how does s/he spend her/his time outside of school? Please indicate about how much time your child spends on the activities listed below in a typical week (including weekends).

- Math homework V6176 hour/s 5:25-28
- Other homework V6177 hour/s 5:29-32
- Sports (either individual or team) V6178 hour/s 5:33-36
- Socializing with friends of the same sex (outside of organized activities) V6179 hour/s 5:37-40
- Socializing with friends of the opposite sex (outside of organized activities) V6180 hour/s 5:41-44
- Organized social activities or clubs V6181 hour/s 5:45-48
- Church groups/activities V6182 hour/s 5:49-52
- Music/art activities V6183 hour/s 5:53-56
- Dance activities V6184 hour/s 5:57-60
- Home chores or jobs V6185 hour/s 5:61-64
- Watching TV or listening to radio/stereo V6186 hour/s 5:65-68
- Playing video games or using home computers V6187 hour/s 5:69-72
- Reading for pleasure V6188 hour/s 5:73-76
- Other: V6189 hour/s 5:77-80

V6189 5:81-82

Background Information

V6190(1) Are you a 1) female 2) male 5:83

V6191(2) What is your current marital status? 5:84

- 1) never married
- 2) married
- 3) remarried
- 4) living with partner
- 5) divorced
- 6) widowed
- 7) separated

Thank you for the time and interest you have shown in our questionnaire. Please remember that if you return this questionnaire to us within two weeks, we will be able to contribute some of the money saved to the math program at your child's school.

So that we may improve our questions in the future, we would greatly appreciate it if you would write any questions which you found to be either unclear or objectionable or any other comments on the back of this sheet. We will be mailing the last questionnaire of this study to you in March or April, 1985.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!