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.

Child's name ________________________________

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

Child's Math Teacher ________________________________

Child's School ________________________________

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School Attitudes WJUH W001-6/01 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?

   Not at all 2 3 4 5 6 7 Very well

   [Scale] ____________________________

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 2 3 4 5 6 7 Very much

   [Scale] ____________________________

   a) changes in grading policies from elementary school
   b) having different teachers for different subjects
   c) making it to their next class on time
   d) making new friends
   e) pressure to do what everyone else is doing
   f) having to shower and dress at school for gym classes
   g) other students' use of drugs or alcohol
   h) violence or fighting in the school
   i) other ____________________________

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

   Much worse 2 3 4 5 6 7 Much better

   [Scale] ____________________________

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

   Much worse 2 3 4 5 6 7 Much better

   [Scale] ____________________________

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!
1. Use the scale below to rate each of the following items.

such 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:

- VQ: a) grades in general? 1:45
- VQ: b) grades in math? 1:46
- VQ: c) how able s/he is in math? 1:47
- VQ: d) how able s/he is in sports? 1:48
- VQ: e) how many friends s/he has? 1:49
- VQ: f) how popular s/he is in general? 1:50
- VQ: 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

[QHM 6TH GRADE]

Now that your child is in junior high/middle school:

- VQ: a) s/he takes on more responsibilities. 1:52
- VQ: b) s/he is more difficult to get along with. 1:53
- VQ: c) s/he is more concerned about his/her appearance. 1:54
- VQ: d) s/he is more involved in social activities. 1:55
- VQ: e) s/he takes school work more seriously. 1:56
- VQ: f) s/he is inhumane. 1:57
- VQ: g) s/he is closer to me because we can now share more adult interests. 1:58
- VQ: h) s/he seeks my advice more often. 1:59
- VQ: i) s/he is less interested in school. 1:60
- VQ: j) s/he socializes more with members of the opposite sex. 1:61
- VQ: k) s/he is now more concerned with what his/her friends think than what I think. 1:62

7) Parents may have some concerns about their child's 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

[QHM 6TH GRADE]

- VQ: a) I worry that my child will become involved with drugs or alcohol during junior high/middle school. 1:63
- VQ: b) I worry about fighting and violence at my child's junior high/middle school. 1:64
- VQ: c) I worry that my child will get in with the wrong crowd of friends in junior high/middle school. 1:65
- VQ: 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

[QHM 6TH GRADE]

I think junior high/middle schools:

- VQ: a) should be teaching the basics more than they do. 1:67
- VQ: b) should emphasize occupational skills more than they do. 1:68
- VQ: c) should emphasize critical/logical thinking skills more than they do. 1:69
- VQ: d) should be teaching computer literacy more than they do. 1:70
- VQ: e) should provide more emotional and social support for children. 1:71
- VQ: f) should provide more counseling for course selection and career decisions. 1:72
- VQ: g) should enforce stricter discipline codes. 1:73
- VQ: h) should notify parents if their child is breaking rules and let the parents discipline their child. 1:74
- VQ: 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

[QHM 6TH GRADE]

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

[QHM 6TH GRADE]

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:

[QHM 6TH GRADE]

Disadvantages:
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.

V9026a) In general I believe that my child is not at all good at math very good at math
very well 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 2:36

V9027) My child finds math very easy very hard
very well 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 2:37

V9028) My child finds math very boring very interesting
very well 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 2:38

V9029) How important is it to you that your child do well in math? not at all important very important
very well 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 2:39

V9030) How important is it to you that your child do well in school in general? not at all important very important
very well 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 2:40

V9031) How well is your child doing in math this year? not at all well very well
very well 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 2:41

V9032) Do you believe that your child is presently doing as well at s/he could do in math not as well as possible as well as possible
very well 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 2:42

V9033) What is the lowest grade or evaluation your child could get in math that would satisfy you?

V9034) Other: 2:34-35
What grade in math do you expect your child to get this term?

How upset would you be if your child got a low grade in math?

I feel that it is important for my child to do better in math than other children in his/her classroom.

To do well in math, my child has to try

How much will your child have to try in order to do well in future math courses?

If your child worked harder at math, how much would his/her performance improve?

How much does your opinion about your child's math ability matter to your child?

How much can you do to assure that your child achieves at a high level in math?

How successful do you think your child would be in a career requiring math ability?

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.

In general I believe that my child is

My child finds English

very easy

very boring

very important

very well

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

What grade in English do you expect your child to get this term?

To do well in English, my child has to try

If your child worked harder at English, how much would his/her performance improve in English change?
6. How much do social interests interfere with your child’s achievement in school?
not at all 
very much 
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 2:66

7. To make friends, my child has to try
a little 
a lot 
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 2:67

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

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.

1. In general how good is your child at making friends?
not at all good 
very good 
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 2:69

2. My child finds making friends
very easy 
very hard 
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 2:70

3. How important is it to you that your child be good at making friends?
not at all important 
very important 
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 2:71

4. How important is it to you that your child participate in organized clubs or community/church groups?
not at all important 
very important 
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 2:72

5. How concerned is your child about his/her appearance?
very little 
very much 
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 2:73

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.

1. In general how good is your child in sports?
not at all good 
very good 
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 2:77

2. My child finds sports
very easy 
very hard 
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 2:78

3. My child finds sports
very boring 
very interesting 
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 2:79

4. How important is it to you that your child do well in sports?
not at all important 
very important 
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 2:80

5. How important is it to you that your child participate in organized sports?
not at all important 
very important 
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 2:81
### 11

**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.

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6. How much does participation in sports interfere with your child's achievement in school?

- not at all
- very much

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

- not at all well
- very well

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

- a little
- a lot

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

- a little
- a lot

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

- a little
- a lot

11. How much can you do to ensure that your child does well in sports?

- a little
- a lot

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.

- strongly disagree
- strongly agree

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

- too little
- too much

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

- 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
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.

1) Is your child a 1) female 2) male

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

3) How tall is your child? 4 ft. __ in.

4) How much has s/he grown during the last 6 months? __ inches

5) How much does your child weigh? __ lbs.

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

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

   a) Has your daughter begun to menstruate? 1) yes 2) no

   b) If yes, about how long ago did this event occur? __ months

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

   a) Hair becoming more oily
   b) Appearance of skin blemishes
   c) Noticeable change in voice tone (breaking of the voice) in the last 6 months
   d) Noticeable increase in muscle strength in the last 6 months
   e) Appearance of pubic hair
   f) None of these

GIRLS

   a) Hair becoming more oily
   b) Appearance of skin blemishes
   c) Appearance of breast buds
   d) Evidence of breast development beyond the "breast bud" stage
   e) Appearance of pubic hair
   f) None of these
5. Please use this scale to rate each of the following statements about your child.
never  sometimes  usually  always
\[ \begin{array}{c|c|c|c|c}
& 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\
\hline
\text{a) My child is even-tempered and not moody.} & 4:25 \\
\text{b) My child gives up when faced with a difficult problem or situation.} & 4:26 \\
\text{c) My child keeps to him/herself or tends to withdraw.} & 4:27 \\
\end{array} \]

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  strongly agree
\[ \begin{array}{c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c}
& 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & 5 & 6 & 7 \\
\hline
\text{a) Early adolescence is a difficult time of life for children and their parents.} & 4:28 \\
\text{b) The most sensible approach to early adolescence is to relax and realize that in time things will get better.} & 4:29 \\
\text{c) Early adolescents are so influenced by their friends that what adults say or do matters very little.} & 4:30 \\
\text{d) There are lots of things parents can do to make their relationship with their early adolescents a good one.} & 4:31 \\
\text{e) Changes in hormones make early adolescence a difficult period of life.} & 4:32 \\
\text{f) Young adolescents are so concerned with how they look that it is difficult for them to focus on schoolwork.} & 4:33 \\
\text{g) Junior high/middle school teachers can have a powerful influence on early adolescents.} & 4:34 \\
\text{h) Changes in behavior during early adolescence are mainly due to the physical changes which are occurring.} & 4:35 \\
\text{i) Junior high/middle schools can be very successful with early adolescents only if they make a special effort to meet the changing needs of this age group.} & 4:36 \\
\end{array} \]

11. Do boys and girls experience different problems during early adolescence?

\[ \begin{array}{c|c|c}
& 1 & 2 \\
\hline
\text{Yes} & 4:37 \\
\text{No} & \\
\end{array} \]

12. If yes, what are the differences?

\[ \begin{array}{c|c|c|c|c|c}
\text{a) Math homework} & \text{hour/s} & 4:36 \text{-} 39 \\
\text{b) Other homework} & \text{hour/s} & 4:40 \text{-} 41 \\
\text{c) Socializing with friends of the same sex (outside of organized activities)} & \text{hour/s} & 5:37 \text{-} 40 \\
\text{d) Socializing with friends of the opposite sex (outside of organized activities)} & \text{hour/s} & 5:41 \text{-} 44 \\
\text{e) Organized social activities or clubs} & \text{hour/s} & 5:14 \text{-} 48 \\
\text{f) Church groups/activities} & \text{hour/s} & 5:14 \text{-} 52 \\
\text{g) Music/art activities} & \text{hour/s} & 5:53 \text{-} 56 \\
\text{h) Dance activities} & \text{hour/s} & 5:57 \text{-} 60 \\
\text{i) Home chores or jobs} & \text{hour/s} & 5:61 \text{-} 64 \\
\text{j) Watching TV or listening to radio/stereo} & \text{hour/s} & 5:65 \text{-} 68 \\
\text{k) Playing video games or using home computers} & \text{hour/s} & 5:69 \text{-} 72 \\
\text{l) Reading for pleasure} & \text{hour/s} & 5:73 \text{-} 76 \\
\text{m) Other:} & \text{hour/s} & 5:77 \text{-} 80 \\
\end{array} \]

Background Information

\[ \begin{array}{c|c|c|c}
\text{1) Are you a:} & \text{1) female} & \text{2) male} \\
\text{2) What is your current marital status?} & \text{1) never married} & \text{2) married} & \text{3) remarried} & \text{4) living with partner} \\
\text{5) divorced} & \text{6) widowed} & \text{7) separated} \\
\end{array} \]

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.

5. 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!