

MISSION

Survival Guide

“What are some things students can do to make smooth transitions throughout school and into the workplace?”



THINK ABOUT IT ...

Transitioning from elementary to middle school can be hard! What do you wish you had known when you started middle school? What advice would you give to your “younger self” that might have helped you prepare? In this mission, you will create a survey, which is a series of questions to help you gather information from other people. You will then interview some younger students and develop a “Middle School Survival Guide” for them that includes tips, advice and resources.

Instructions

1. Think about the top three challenges you faced in getting ready for middle school and list them in a separate document. To help you brainstorm, look at the personal, workplace and technical skills in the SkillsUSA Framework and identify the one you believe would be most helpful for the students you interview or that reflects your own experiences.
2. In a separate document, write down eight to ten survey questions. Try to avoid questions that can be answered with “yes” or “no.” Instead, try to include mostly open-ended questions (which require longer, more detailed answers). Some examples are listed on the next page. Feel free to use these and add your own.

- What excites you the most about starting middle school?
 - What would you like to learn in middle school?
 - What fears do you have about middle school?
3. Find three or four students who are getting ready for middle school in the next year or two — or who just started middle school this year. Ask them if they will answer some survey questions so that you can create a Middle School Survival Guide.
 4. Ask each student the same questions. You may record their answers in a separate document, or you may record a video of your interviews. (Before recording the interviews, be sure to ask for permission.)
 5. Review all the answers. Do you notice any common themes? If so, take note of them. You will be writing about each theme in a new document.
 6. Using a word processing program (such as Microsoft Word or Google Docs) or presentation software (such as PowerPoint or Google Slides), create five to ten pages or slides for your Middle School Survival Guide.
 - a. Each page should start with a separate theme. For example, if three students said they are worried about eating lunch in the big cafeteria, you might decide to include “Eating Lunch” in your guide.
 - b. Each page should provide at least three tips to help address the concern.
 - c. Each page should provide one additional tool to help the new middle school students reading your guide. This section might include a map of the cafeteria, a sample weekly menu and a statement from a seventh grader that helps ease worries about eating lunch in middle school.
 7. When you are happy with what you have written, choose the photos, fonts and colors you will use in your document or presentation.
 8. Share your Middle School Survival Guide with some of the students you interviewed. To do this, print your guide or share it as a digital file. Upload your assignment in the online campus or turn in as instructed by your teacher.