Dear 6th grader,

Are you excited for middle school? Nervous? Well, that's okay. Because here's some advice for you. Some common worries are homework, grades, lockers, teachers, friends, and getting lost. I'll tell you how to overcome these worries.

Homework - just don't procrastinate and try to get it done as soon as you get home. Turn it in on time and try your best on it.

Grades - Study for tests and quizzes, and also take good notes, participate in class, and do your homework. Try to go above and beyond.

Lockers - the school will teach you how to open your locker. You'll be able to open it easily soon.

Teachers - just make sure you follow directions.

Friends - just be yourself and you'll make friends. Put others before you. You'll survive. It's fun.

Sincerely,
Dear 6th grader,

Welcome to your first year of middle school! I know you must be really nervous, because it's a new school year and all...

When I started here at Gateway, one thing I was really nervous about was trying to find my classes and completing the homework assigned to me. But soon, I became used to middle school. Using my planner to record assignments really helped, and I was able to locate all my classes.

Ways to help you to get used to middle school: Advice

- Use your planner to remember all your teacher's assignments.
- Do not worry too much about getting to class on time; there are four minutes in between periods, and the teachers are really easy during the first week.
- Making Friends: The kids at middle school are more similar to you than you thought— they are nicer than you think, and being yourself around people can cause them to like and feel comfortable around you.
- Locks: To reset a lock before your combination, spin it 3 times. If you are having trouble, then you can always ask a teacher to help you.
- Locker Room: Everyone else is just as nervous as you, just get it done quickly to get it over with.

Good Luck, and have a good school year!

~ a current 7th grader
Dear 6th Grader,

I know that one thing you are probably nervous about is not having any classes with your friends. Well, I was nervous about that too. By the time orientation came, I found out that I had no classes with any of my friends from my previous class. But, things did get better. I made new friends, and I still sit with my other friends at lunch and recess. I know the transition is hard, but I promise that it will get better. I hope you have a good year!

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Hi soon to be 6th grader!

I understand that you are probably nervous about middle school. Trust me, it gets better. No matter what you are nervous about, just know you are not alone. When I was starting 6th grade I was very nervous. Would any of my friends be in my classes? Would I get lost? Would I be bullied? The answer to all these questions are, you're over-thinking it! Even if you don't have friends in your classes, you can make new friends. If you get lost, ask for help! Teachers will always be willing to help. Lastly, you definitely won't be bullied! There's a whole hub about bullying prevention! So remember: Don't be shy ask for help if anything is ever wrong! Good luck!
Dear 6th grader,

It can be challenging when transitioning from elementary school to middle school. At first, everything feels scary. After time though, you get used to it. When I first started 6th grade, I was really nervous about getting to class on time. The first day, I was late to almost all my classes, turns out most other people were late too! Thankfully, after time, you will get to your locker and your class on time and easily. Everything will be good if you just be yourself.

-A 7th grader
Dear 6th grader,

Your probably scared that the teachers are mean, all the homework and being late to class. But you don't have to be scared about that. The teachers are all nice and if you mange the time correctly your homework won't even take that long. You'll still have time to play outside and play with your friend. Also, you won't be late to class because you have 4 minutes to get there and let me tell ya that's more than enough time.

Making new friends isn't bad you get to know new people and you'll have a lot of your old friends in your class.

You won't have to be scared about your grades because you can check them online at anytime.

The library has so many books and so many great ones. There's also some gateway reads that you can try out.

There's after school clubs you can join and even study clubs you could go to.

Sincerely,
Dear 6th Grader,

December 1, 2017

You might feel nervous, scared or even terrified about Grades, Friends, Teachers, passing time, or overall but trust me. I speak from experience, that feeling will go away. You will make friends, if you work hard, you will get good grades, the teachers will grow on you, and passing time feels longer than it sounds. Try making friends in your elective class, it's good to make friends with the same interests as you, but who am I to say who you should make friends with? Explore your possibilities!

Sincerely,

[Signature]

6th Grader
Dear incoming 6th graders,

You may be scared of getting lost, getting bad grades, or how you'll be able to open your locker. I was also scared of things too. But you'll be able to adjust. Teachers are very friendly and to get good grades you just have to do your best. Now that you have an online grade book you can even see what you need to improve on. Once you have got the schedule in your head it isn't very hard to get around! Also, they give you almost a whole class period to try your lock, so don't be nervous!
Dear new 6th grader,

It is okay to be nervous about middle school—I was too. I had no idea of what it was like inside, and I was freaked out in 5th grade. I was nervous about Physical Education, Locker Rooms, opening my locker's lock quickly, and getting my homework done in time. But it is all okay. After some time, I just got used to everything. No one cared when you were changing in the locker room. I didn't even fail to open my lock after one month, and I have managed settling out my homework. It is okay to feel nervous now, but it will all be soon okay.
Dear New Sixth Grader,

You are probably thinking I am not ready for middle school. But you are ready! Here is some tips and tricks to help you through middle school.

1. Friends: You should find a group of friends that will stick with you and not ditch you for other people. Remember be yourself your friends will like you for you if not they are lost.

2. Locker: Your locker is pretty easy once you get the hang of it. Remember to make sure your locker is locked and if they lock yours later.

3. Grades: What I do if I have a test I will study for 10 minutes every day starting 6 days before the test.

I hope this helps you!

-A old sixth grader
Dear 6th grader,

For me, I was very scared of starting middle school. I was scared I was going to get lost, have scary teachers, and that I wouldn't be able to find my classes. But, after I came to school, it wasn't too scary. There were a lot of teachers everywhere that helped me find my classes. The teachers were also super nice and helped us. At first, I was really scared I wouldn't be able to open my locker, but it was pretty easy to get used to.

Don't worry. You'll do fine. Have fun in middle school. It's really fun.

Sincerely,
Dear 6th graders,

Starting middle school can be very nerve-racking. New friends, teachers, and even getting your locker open. All that homework, and that time constraint between classes. It will get better. All the teachers here will support you. You will get to memorize the routes you take, and the quickest way to get there. I got lost once on the first day of school, but an 8th grader helped me out. You will meet new people and make new friends in no time. Everyone here is super supportive and you will have a good time.

Best of luck,
Dear, New 6th Grader

When you start school, you might be a little scared. Making sure you are on time, opening your locker, and the P.E locker rooms. I was super scared for the first two weeks. You probably will be scared too. You don't have to be nervous or scared. Over the first few weeks of school, the teachers are super nice.

So, I would suggest for you to stay calm and collected and soon you will get the hang of it.