

Welcome!!

This is the **Executive Functioning** Presentation.
Please have a seat and cool off!

Do Now

- What questions do you have about executive functioning and organization in Middle School?
- What concerns do you have about executive functioning?



**The Math & Science
Exploratory School**

Keeping It Together: Executive Functioning for New Middle Schoolers

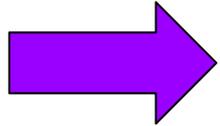
FACILITATORS: Yaquoi Moore and Allison Pariani

PURPOSE

After this webinar, parents will be able to...

- ★ Define executive functioning
- ★ Understand the expectations for student independence in middle school
- ★ Take home tools and strategies to help your child transition to middle school

AGENDA



Overview of Executive Functioning

- **What is it?**
- **Why is it important?**

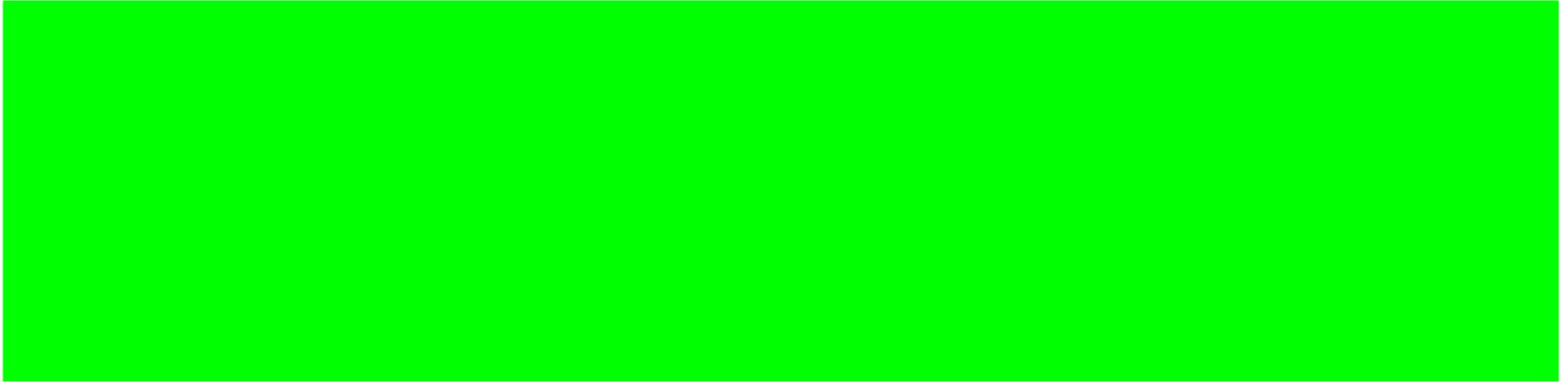
Understanding Expectations for Middle School

Tools and Strategies to Support Your Child

Next Steps for Parents

WHAT IS EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONING?

- Turn and talk to your neighbor: What do you think executive functioning is?



WHY IS EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONING IMPORTANT?

- ★ “Executive function is like the **air traffic control system of the brain**—and it plays a big part in learning. It lets kids manage all the different streams of information they receive. It helps kids plan projects and see them through. And it allows them to adjust when situations change.” from [understood.org](https://www.understood.org)
- ★ Every moment of every day, we have information competing for attention.
 - Successful executive functioning allows a person to prioritize and manage all of the competing information.

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONING HELPS STUDENTS TO...

- ★ focus
- ★ complete projects
- ★ control their impulses
- ★ follow directions
- ★ play and take turns
- ★ be independent when doing their schoolwork

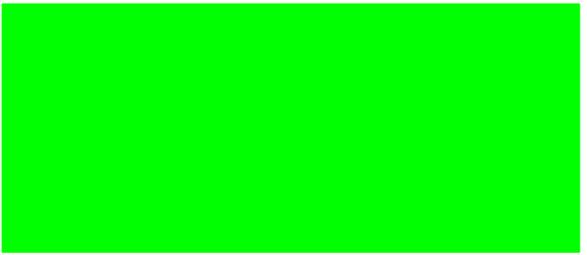
THE CHALLENGE: TRANSITIONS

At Home:	At School:	The Issue:
Your child is focused on completing their homework and gets up to answer the phone. After hanging up, they have lost interest in the project and leave it unfinished.	Your child can solve a math problem one way. But they have trouble when the teacher requires the students to show their work using a different method.	

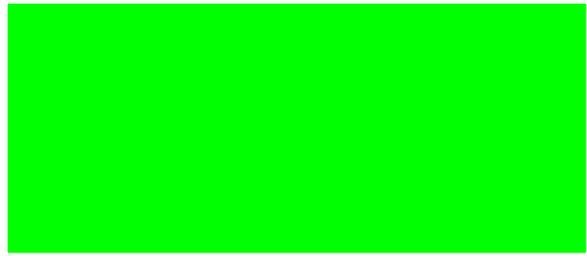
THE CHALLENGE: MISSING THE POINT

At Home:	At School:	The Issue:
Your child seems to focus on the least important detail of what you've said.	Your child has trouble finding the right information in a word problem to come up with an equation.	

THE CHALLENGE: CAN'T GET ORGANIZED

At Home:	At School:	The Issue:
<p>Your child repeatedly mixes up assignments. They don't bring home the books or worksheets that they need to complete their projects or homework.</p>	<p>Your child's backpack or locker is full of crumpled papers and pencil stubs. Their schoolwork folder and pencil case are both empty.</p>	

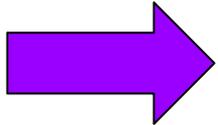
THE CHALLENGE: GETS "STUCK" ON AN IDEA

At Home:	At School:	The Issue:
<p>You explained that the family is all going out to dinner. But your child is insistent about getting pizza delivered because it's Thursday and that's pizza night.</p>	<p>Your child argues with other kids about how to play a game. The other kids are trying to make up new rules! Your student shouts that the game is stupid and they aren't playing anymore.</p>	

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EXPECTATIONS WITHIN THE SCHOOL DAY

Students can expect to independently

- ★ Use their locker each morning and afternoon
- ★ Refer to their schedule (also available on student board)
- ★ Maintain their materials for each class
- ★ Write down HW into their planner as it is posted
- ★ Keep track of deadlines for HW and projects in planner
- ★ Communicate with HW buddy and self-advocate their needs
- ★ Check PupilPath as needed (lost assignment, absent, etc) for grade and updates

EXPECTATIONS AT HOME

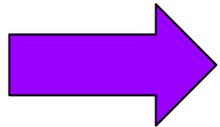
- ★ Set realistic HW goals for the day.
- ★ Use a timer to ensure that students complete their work.
 - (Students work for a certain amount of time and then take a break. This pattern is repeated until students have finished their assigned work).
- ★ One-on-one support for students who need more guidance.
- ★ Parents should check student's planner and Pupil Path to ensure that they've completed the day's assignments.

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STUDENT SUPPORTS

Issue	Supports At Home	Supports At School
Student is having a difficult time completing an essay.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">★ Talk out and jot down ideas with your child.★ Access to a computer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">★ Use of a concept map or web to jot down ideas.★ Access to a computer.
Student continues to make the same calculation errors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">★ Double check your work using a different strategy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">★ Follow the checklist of solving a particular problem.
Student is struggling to complete long-term projects in multiple classes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">★ Create a points system to encourage your child to complete the smaller parts of the projects.★ Have a visual or wall calendar with due dates and alarms set.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">★ Task analysis checklist which breaks down the projects into smaller parts with due dates for each part.

ADDITIONAL TOOLS AND STRATEGIES

Tool or Strategy	How to Use
Timer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Students work for a period of time and then take a break.
Checklists	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Outlines how to complete an essay or Math problem.
Study space	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Organized. Neat. Supplies needed are available. Fidgets are available if needed. Calendar with due dates.
Work habits and breaks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Predictable work routine.● Parent support for help whenever it is needed.● Agreed upon break schedule.
Sensory supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Noise-cancelling headphones or with music● lighting in the room● fidgets● standing desk area
Tech support	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Google Drive folders for each subject to save typed projects or a thumb drive for Word documents.● Email and Pupil Path access.

SETTING UP FOR SUCCESS: STUDY SPACES



- ★ Students should have a dedicated place to work
- ★ It should be in an area that is free of distractions and electronics.
- ★ Frequently needed supplies should be near and have a designated spot.

SETTING UP FOR SUCCESS: STUDY SPACES



- ★ However, space is tight in a NYC apartment!
- ★ Turn a kitchen table into a study space by:
 - Clearing it off
 - Unplugging TVs, turning off phones
 - Use a shower caddy to hold school supplies
 - At the end, put homework into HW folders, return supplies to their areas, and pack up backpack for the morning.

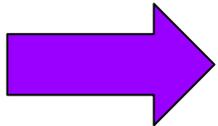
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NEXT STEPS FOR PARENTS

- ★ Sign up to PupilPath and check it once a week.
- ★ Use Course Calendar in PupilPath to see upcoming assignments
- ★ Encourage your child to be an advocate for their own learning. **Ask for help whenever it is needed.**
- ★ Sign off on your child's HW every day. (Initial the planner next to the completed assignment).
- ★ Set up a time each week to organize the binder and clean out the backpack. See green page in binder!

WHO TO CONTACT

Subject Teachers	Advisor or Social Worker	Parent Coordinator
<ul style="list-style-type: none">★ Grades★ Homework Concerns★ Content Questions★ Extended Absences (you should <u>always</u> tell the Pupil Secretary about absences- send in a note with your student)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">★ Locker Issues★ Social Issues★ Illnesses★ Family Emergencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">★ Bus Information★ Lunch Information★ Lost or forgotten items★ PupilPath account problems★ PupilPath password reset for Students★ Lost Forms

Note: When sending an email, please include your student's name and class in the subject, and a brief description of the issue, to all teachers of that class!

Works Cited

<https://www.understood.org/en/learning-attention-issues/child-learning-disabilities/executive-functioning-issues/video-why-executive-function-is-so-important-for-your-child>