

## *Welcome to Mrs. Edgar's Class*

Dear Parents,

你好 (Hello)! My name is Stephanie Edgar. I would like to extend a warm welcome to you as your child enters fifth grade. This is going to be a year full of excitement and full of opportunity. I am looking forward to working with you to best help your child grow into middle school and continue their faith life!

I have been married to my wonderful husband, Aaron, for four years. We have a two year old son, Dakota. My family and teaching take up most of my time, but a couple of hobbies I love are reading and cooking/baking.

I have lived all over the world in places like Liberia, West Africa, Taiwan and Billings, Montana. I am thankful to call Jacksonville my home and cannot wait to begin my second year here at Grace (and my 12th year of teaching)!

Some of my favorites:

Season-Fall and Winter

Drink-Coffee and Unsweetened Iced

Tea with Lemon

Candy-Butterfinger

Restaurant-Chipotle and Panera

Flower-Tulip

Grocery Store-Aldi

Book-A Ring of Endless Light

Bible Story-Esther and Job

Bible Verse: Hebrews 11:1

Class to Teach-Social Studies

A couple of things about entering middle school:

Throughout the year I will be sending homework home with your child that will enable you to work with your son or daughter, as they may need. These assignments relate to what we are currently learning in the classroom. I will be serving as your child's homeroom teacher and they will be with me for the following classes every week: Religion, Social Studies, and Language Arts (reading and writing/grammar).

Each student will receive their own assignment notebook/daily planner that **they will be in charge of updating** every day at school. This is part of their classroom responsibility in the middle school. Please feel free to check this nightly and encourage your child to write down any necessary information regarding their homework assignments. The assignment notebook/daily planner will play an important role in your child's daily activities and this will be outlined to them at the beginning of the school year. Now having multiple teachers for different subject areas will require them to be organized and keep track of deadlines and due dates!

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email me!

Email: [stephanie\\_edgar@gracelutheraneagles.org](mailto:stephanie_edgar@gracelutheraneagles.org)

In HIM who made us,  
Mrs. Stephanie Edgar

## Suggestions for Ways to Help Your Middle Schooler

Through your involvement in school and extracurriculars, you can do much to help your child believe in the value and importance of education, be enthusiastic about learning, and achieve academic success. As your child's first middle school teacher, a big part of my job is to help you as parents support your child emotionally as well as academically. Here is my best advice for you:

### 1. Pray for and with your child!

2. **Help your child manage homework time.** Encourage them to aim high and always do their best work.
3. **Show interest in your child's studies** by talking with them daily about what they're learning and doing in school (don't take "nothing" for an answer!). If you know your child has a project for science, get involved. The same goes for cheerleading, sports, and music — any extracurricular activities.
4. **Discuss ideas and feelings about school, studies, and activities.** Be realistic about what your child can and should be able to do.
5. **Read and review with your child the information that Grace provides.** Be familiar with the material. All these will help you and your child successfully weave your way through the maze called middle school.
6. **Contact teachers periodically.** Find out what your child should be learning, how they are progressing, and how you can help. Be a full partner in your child's education.
7. **Be sure that your child attends school on a regular basis.** Even if they are absent for illness or another valid reason, they need to keep up with their studies. Call the school if your child will be missing a day, and find out what they need to do to make up for it.
8. **Encourage them to pursue interests and make friends through extracurricular activities.** Be certain, however, that they don't get in over their heads. You must help them find a balance; this will take compromise and patience.
9. **Know your child's friends.** Who does your child hang out with?
10. **Make it clear that they must follow school rules and policies.** Teach them to respect people as well as property. Help them know right from wrong and what they must do when negative temptations come their way.
11. **Encourage them to get to know their teachers** and to maintain contact throughout their middle-school years, if possible. Not only will they be invaluable in supporting their academic path, they are also one of many potential adult role models for your child.
12. **Attend parent meetings,** open houses, booster clubs, parent education groups, and other activities for parents. It is very important for your child!
13. **Volunteer at school.** Both your child and the school will benefit from your involvement and help.
14. **Consistently acknowledge efforts at school.** When your child works hard, your acknowledgment motivates them to persist.