

# First Day of School Checklist: Middle School

## Before Students Arrive

- ☐ Display a welcome message that includes your name, schedule highlights, and a fun question.
- ☐ Set up seating to encourage interaction (consider flexible groupings).
- ☐ Ensure daily schedule and classroom norms are clearly posted.

Notes:

## Establishing Respectful Relationships

- ☐ Warmly greet each student as they enter.
- ☐ Introduce yourself in a personal and professional way. Share interests, goals, and values.
- ☐ Include a short activity or survey for students to share about themselves.
- ☐ Use a connection-building activity (e.g., "Find someone who..." or "Commonalities").
- ☐ Learn students' names and use them often.

Notes:

## Setting the Tone for Learning

- ☐ Cocreate or introduce classroom expectations and procedures.
- ☐ Use Interactive Modeling to teach routines (e.g., entering class, group work, tech use).
- ☐ Set norms for respectful discussion and collaboration.
- ☐ Share your vision for the year, connecting it to learning goals.
- ☐ Introduce and model the signal for attention.

Notes:

## Academic Engagement

- ☐ Give a preview of what students will be learning in your subject(s).
- ☐ Avoid lengthy lectures. Keep lessons active and exploratory.
- ☐ Introduce the first engaging, low-stakes academic task (team challenge, creative writing, etc.).
- ☐ Begin to informally assess students' comfort with participation and strengths for the subject matter.
- ☐ Review homework assignment expectations and routines.

Notes:

## End of Class Reflection

- ☐ Ask students to reflect: What did you learn about our class today?
- ☐ Reinforce one positive moment or behavior you noticed.
- ☐ Preview what students can expect tomorrow.

Notes:

## Tips for Managing Multiple Class Periods in One Day

- ☐ Have a consistent routine for welcoming and dismissing each class.
- ☐ Prepare a quick icebreaker or activity that fits into a 40–60 minute period.
- ☐ Begin establishing class identity with each group. Consider a shared motto or daily check-in question.

Notes:

