

## Give Your Child the Pre-K to 8 Experience Here are just a few reasons why...

According to a study described in the October 16, 2017 article in New York University's Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development:

1. Students who attend a middle school compared to a K-8 school are likely to have a lower perception of their reading skills.
2. The social and academic contexts of middle grade schools may not be well-aligned with early adolescents' developmental needs for autonomy, feeling connected to others, and feeling competent.
3. The results are mixed on the academic impact of middle grade schools versus K-8 schools, with some studies showing a benefit for K-8 schools.
4. Teachers in middle and junior high schools may differ as well, both in their knowledge of whole child development and their experience of professional support and satisfaction. Taken together, these differences may lead teachers to be less responsive to student needs, which can have consequences when compounded with other characteristics of middle school.
5. A decrease in teacher-student closeness or school safety, or an increase in academic competition among peers, may lead to lower self-esteem and higher anxiety and loneliness among students.

<https://steinhardt.nyu.edu/site/ataglance/2017/10/middle-vs-k-8-school-matters.html>

"Middle schoolers are proud, of course, of their new status as almost teens, but the almost is what most defines them. When educators are unaware of how developmentally close the middle schooler is to elementary schooler, we miss the opportunity to teach the whole person, both the child who is leaving childhood behind, as well as the young adult who is looking forward to the challenges of independence" (*Claire Needell Hollander* <https://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2012/06/18/the-middle-school-conundrum/why-k-8-schools-may-be-better-for-middle-school-students>)