Teaching middle school students the value of perseverance is important because…

* Successful individuals have developed perseverance
* More opportunities will be available and more goals will be accomplished, not only as students, but also in the future
* Gives students the necessary tools when they get to high school and college
* Builds confidence and a sense of self-worth
* It is something bigger than mastering the content itself
* If instilled now, students will benefit exponentially – learning/seeing the results of that hard work is priceless
* It is a true skill – can get you through the other side of frustration
* Difficult challenges can not be overcome without it
* Probably no time in life when students feel as overwhelmed, put-upon, and out of their depth as in middle school; challenges (academic, social, emotional, reflective) are huge and students need to know that they can, and will, succeed
* Life is a series of failures – it’s what you do to adjust and adapt to make yourself succeed
* Kids often expect ‘instant’ everything (info, music, answers, access to everything!) – need to learn the value of hard, extended work
* An essential life skill to learn to work through with difficulty times with focus and hope of seeing it through
* Students may become discouraged and feel that they can not achieve a certain skill, but feel such a worthwhile sense of accomplishment when they master it (hopefully a lifelong lesson)
* Teaches them self-worth and increases self-esteem – an important lesson we can develop at this age
* Things don’t always turn out the way they were planned; important to look at all sides of a situation, disagreement, or way to accomplish a task; need to be open to new approaches
* Life is made up of challenges and they need to know how to power through what life throws at them
* Problem solving is a life skill and will be one of the most important parts of their lives
* Only way for everyone to learn and grow together
* Need to learn the value of mistakes and how to put things into perspective
* Learning process includes struggle, reflection, problem solving, and success
* Shows that we value the learning process
* Important to teach value of reward/success after hard work
* Nothing in life does not change – as individuals, we need to adapt, grow and be open to ‘change’
* It most often leads to success, or at the very least, can strengthen resolve and make us better as tasks over time
* Contributes to growth in self-esteem and confidence
* Life isn’t always easy and when students ‘fall down’ they must know that they can get up and continue on
* We should also stress the moral aspect of perseverance – the right goal/purpose
* It’s the show in all aspects of life no matter what stage you’re in
* It’s unavoidable – we may not experience ‘significant’ adversity, but all of us will likely experience a dark night of the soul – we must learn to never give up
* Perseverance now leads to perseverance later in life
* Builds strong work ethic and confidence
* Adolescent years are so very difficult both academically and emotionally, so learning to persevere and know life and school will only get better is an important quality
* Most things require it in life
* If in place, they can work through struggles and adversity
* Keep at idea of engagement with people, our culture, and other cultures
* Will instill positive sense of accomplishment
* Helps them see things from others’ eyes who may have bigger obstacles
* So they see failure as an opportunity to learn
* Builds positive character
* They may not have learned what failure is yet
* Takes time to really ‘get’ some things and laying a foundation of stuff that isn’t so fun will allow you to get to more ‘fun’ stuff and take understanding to a new level
* Helps instill a sense of pride
* During these years students will face many hardships, make mistakes, feel alone, want to give up – they need to be able to push through and come out on the other side (and know others are waiting for them)
* Fundamental characteristic of successful and happy people
* Need to be fostered by families and schools
* Overcoming obstacles is a lifelong process
* To counter the ‘instant gratification’ culture
* Success does not always come as easily as it may have in earlier years
* Need to learn the value/gratification of accomplishing something difficult
* Skill that applies to every aspect of life
* Many examples in history of people who have failed repeatedly before succeeding
* No amount of intelligence can make up for lack of perseverance
* Gives hope that even though change is not always immediate, it can get better
* Important to help students realize that it is hard work, and not ‘innate’ talent or intelligence that will help students in the long run
* Helps students become more creative, more emotionally strong and more flexible