

# The Effect of Learning Interests on Academic Performance of Secondary School Student

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**Abstract.** Students' interest in learning and academic performance is not only an important aspect to measure the quality of students, but also the focus of attention in education and teaching. Interest is of great significance to the development of people's learning activities and other aspects. It is one of the driving forces to stimulate students' learning motivation and promote students' learning and development. Therefore, it is of great significance to explore the influence of middle school students' learning interest on academic performance. This paper will analyze the influencing factors of middle school students' learning interest, such as learning environment and learning content, at the same time, it studies the relationship between middle school students' learning interest and academic performance: the relationship between learning interest and classroom performance, learning achievement and students' personal development. On this basis, this paper discusses the influence of learning interest on academic performance, and puts forward some strategies to improve middle school students' learning interest.

**Keywords:** Secondary school student; learning interest; Academic performance.

## 1. Introduction

According to the requirements of the new curriculum reform and the implementation of quality education, the cultivation of students' interest and motivation in learning has become one of the important contents of the current teaching work. The current secondary school teaching should give play to the main role of students, that is to say, to let students have enthusiasm, initiative and creativity in the learning process, so as to let students develop in an all-round way. This needs to inspire students to take the initiative to learn the internal drive. Ancient saying "those who know are not better than those who are good, and those who are good are not better than those who are happy." Interest is one of the driving forces to promote students' active learning, and interest is the best teacher. How to stimulate students' interest in learning has become the focus of the majority of teachers [1].

In recent years, there have also been a lot of research on learning interest in education academia, and a lot of progress has been made. For example, in Jia Yuanyuan's *How to Stimulate Students' Learning Interest in Primary Language Teaching*, the importance of stimulating students' learning interest is explained, and the strategy of stimulating learning interest is put forward, which effectively stimulates students' enthusiasm for language learning through interesting guidelines, emotional introduction and other methods [1]. In Li's *How to Stimulate Students' Interest in Learning in Mathematics Classroom*, he advocates the use of creating teaching situations, carrying out hands-on activities, and gamification to stimulate students' interest in learning [2]. In Dalmawan Harefa, "The Relationship Between Students' Learning Interest and Mathematics Learning Achievement and the Relationship Between Mathematics Learning Outcomes," a significant positive correlation between students' learning interest and mathematics learning achievement was shown by using eighth-grade students as the subjects of the study through research methods such as correlational quantitative research and data analysis methods [3]. Researchers have explored the impact of learning interest on academic performance from different perspectives.

Based on the analysis of related literature, this study will investigate the influencing factors of secondary school students' interest in learning, the relationship between secondary school students' interest in learning and academic performance, the strategies to enhance secondary school students'

interest in learning, and finally the relationship between secondary school students' interest in learning and academic performance.

## **2. Factors Affecting Secondary School Students' Interest in Learning**

### **2.1. Learning Content**

Learning content refers to what students have to learn in school, and it is a kind of teaching content which is characterised by a clear purpose and relevance.

First of all, the content of learning itself will affect the students' interest in learning, different students have different character, they have different acceptance of the content of the subject itself, some students are sensitive to numbers, and the learning content of the subject of maths is numbers and calculations, they will be interested in the subject of maths; some students are interested in the text, and the learning content of the subject of language and English has a wealth of knowledge of grammar and the use of words, they will be interested in language and English. This process of learning content influencing the interest in learning is relatively short, indicating the emergence of interest from nothing to something [4].

Secondly, the difficulty of learning content will also affect the learning interest of middle school students. Middle school students are different from primary school students. In middle school, more kinds of subjects are added on the basis of several English, and the learning difficulty is also improved. If teachers do not give guidance on content learning, they may lose their interest in learning. Therefore, the learning content itself and the difficulty of learning content will have an impact on students' interest in learning.

### **2.2. Learning Environment**

As the saying goes, "The environment shapes people." The learning environment is the external environment that can have an impact on students' learning. Learning environment is divided into family environment, school environment and social environment. As one of the important external factors affecting secondary school students' interest in learning, a good learning environment can promote students' active learning and enhance their learning ability. From the students' point of view, their subjective feelings about the learning environment can stimulate their intrinsic interest in learning and enhance their motivation to learn, and vice versa will weaken their enthusiasm for learning and reduce the learning effect [5].

In the family, parents' education of children, including parents' behaviours and words, have a great influence on children, and a large number of studies have shown that well-educated parents have a good influence on their children, and can stimulate the children's desire to learn. Therefore, the education of the parents of the child is also particularly important. Whether there is an atmosphere of love of reading and learning in a family, whether the parents like to read, and what kind of concepts the parents have for educating their children can all be very good to stimulate the children's interest in learning.

School is the main place for students to learn, and a quality learning environment has an important impact on students' learning results. A good learning atmosphere is conducive to stimulate learning motivation, diversified learning resources provide students with better learning opportunities, active learning support and counselling can effectively improve learning results, the school environment can help students to comprehensively improve their learning ability and comprehensive quality. With the development of society, the social environment is becoming more and more complex, so it will have a great impact on students. The social environment provides students with a living environment and exerts all kinds of influence on them. Their enthusiasm for study and life is the response and answer to the social environment. Therefore, the attention and guidance of the state and the government to education is also very important to students' learning.

### **2.3. Sense of Achievement in Learning**

Achievement Theory, also known as Achievement Motivation Theory, was proposed by the famous American psychologist Thorndike. He believed that the main reason for success and failure in learning is an individual's achievement motivation. If a person is enthusiastic about learning activities, he will endeavour to pursue success; if a person fails to achieve success, he will feel defeated and consequently lose the courage to continue his efforts [6].

Academic achievements, including academic grades, academic awards, and praise from teachers and parents. Secondary school is a period of vigorous psychological development for students. Secondary school students are generally aggressive and want to prove their abilities and standards through certain achievements. Through a questionnaire study in a middle school, Lei Qingyao shows that students who are good at English also have a greater sense of achievement, which will further promote their motivation and interest in English learning. which in turn promotes the improvement of English performance [7]. Therefore, achievement motivation can not only affect students' academic performance, but also their attitude and interest in learning. While encouraging students to achieve academic success, it is also necessary to avoid students' achievement anxiety. In today's era of rapid educational involution, students may feel anxious and fearful because they have not completed a certain task or failed to meet the desired expectations, which is a kind of negative affective experience, and if students show a high level of achievement anxiety in their learning, it will inhibit learning motivation and reduce learning efficiency.

## **3. The Relationship Between Learning Interests and Academic Performance of Secondary School Students**

### **3.1. The Relationship between Interest in Learning and Test Scores**

In Andreas Krapp's article "Interest, learning, and development", using the method of correlation research, this paper analyzes the relationship between interest and test scores, and proves that the relationship between middle school students' learning interest and test scores is very close [8]. Test scores and interest in learning are a pair of interdependent factors. First of all, interest in learning can have a positive impact on test scores. When students are interested in a certain subject or course, they will be more engaged in learning, more willing to take the time to study relevant knowledge, and learning motivation will be greatly improved. Master more knowledge and skills, so as to achieve better test scores.

On the other hand, examination results will also have a counter-effect on interest in learning. When students achieve excellent results in a certain subject examination, it will greatly improve their self-confidence, make them feel satisfied and successful, and thus generate continuous learning motivation. With the complementary promotion of the two, students will have a strong interest in learning, further improve their academic level, and form a virtuous circle.

To sum up, there is a close relationship between test scores and interest in learning.

### **3.2. The Relationship between Interest in Learning and Classroom Performance**

For how to maximise students' interest in learning, enhance learning motivation and improve students' classroom performance is of great significance in cultivating outstanding secondary school students.

Psychological research shows that there is a general and significant positive correlation between primary school students' learning interest and classroom performance, i.e., the higher the learning interest, the better the classroom performance. In Jia Jingying's Study on the Correlation between Middle School Students' English Learning Self-efficacy and Classroom Performance, it is shown that there is a positive correlation between middle school students' learning interest and classroom performance, and that with learning interest students' self-confidence and self-efficacy can be stimulated to be more active in the classroom and thus express themselves more positively [9].

Therefore, the relationship between students' interest in learning and classroom performance is very close, and interest in learning is a prerequisite for students to have a strong interest in learning content. In this case, students will behave more actively in the classroom and participate in classroom activities attentively, thinking and discussing problems actively. At the same time, if the teacher understands the emotional needs of each student in the classroom and guides the students to be active in the classroom, it will also stimulate the students' interest in learning in a subtle way.

### **3.3. The Relationship Between Interest in Learning and Students' Personal Development**

Research in educational psychology has shown that focusing on cultivating students' interest in learning can promote their all-round development. Scholarships and more accolades are available to students with excellent academic results, helping to boost their academic reputation and self-confidence. Academic performance can also be used as a stepping stone for students to develop in the future field, with more opportunities to gain the favor of mentors and enterprises, get more job opportunities. At the same time, personal development also has a negative effect on academic performance, and students' self-motivation and self-efficacy can improve academic performance.

First of all, interest is the cornerstone of lifelong learning. Middle school is the golden stage for students to cultivate their interest in learning. If middle school students can cultivate their interest in knowledge, subjects and learning at this stage, they will have better academic performance, so that they can enter better schools and get more development opportunities, which will lay a solid foundation for their development. Not only that, they can also keep the love of lifelong learning, cultivate the ability of lifelong learning, constantly increase knowledge and improve their own quality.

Secondly, learning interests and personal interests promote each other. Interest in learning is the basis for cultivating and developing personal interests. When secondary school students are interested in a certain subject, they are likely to develop their own expertise in this field and further develop their personal interests.

In addition, interest in learning plays an important role in promoting the comprehensive quality development of secondary school students. Students not only improve their ability in subject knowledge, but also improve their aesthetic sensibility, cultivate beautiful emotions, develop their personality and mould a healthy psychology. The cultivation of learning interest can help students form a positive learning attitude and enhance the autonomy of problem solving. At the same time, the stimulation of learning interest also helps to cultivate students' innovative thinking, teamwork, problem solving and other qualities. For example, a student who likes science experiments can develop observation, thinking, hands-on ability and teamwork and communication skills in the process of conducting experiments, which can effectively promote the overall improvement of students' comprehensive quality.

## **4. Strategies to Enhance Secondary School Students' Interest in Learning**

### **4.1. Fun Guide**

The secondary school curriculum is difficult, and the theoretical knowledge points are complicated, the classroom is inevitably boring. In order to make students feel the fun of learning, teachers can guide students to learn from the perspective of fun.

Secondary school students are curious and active, teachers can use this psychological characteristics, create a reasonable teaching situation, let students take the initiative to solve practical problems in life, and stimulate students to take the initiative to explore the desire to cultivate students' interest in learning. Teachers should create a problem situation closely related to the actual life of secondary school students, highlighting the concept that teaching comes from life, increasing students' enthusiasm for learning, and stimulating students' interest in learning. In addition, teachers can use anchor teaching to bring students into the problem situation, lead them to analyse and solve the problem, and finally get inspired [10].

In addition, teachers can make more use of multimedia for teaching. With the continuous development of modern information technology and the deep integration of the Internet and education, the traditional teaching mode is gradually replaced by multimedia teaching. Teachers need to make full use of multimedia tools to enrich classroom activities through games, videos, music, performances, etc., so as to make the classroom more lively and stimulate the interest of learning. Teachers also need to use a variety of teaching methods alternately or in combination, such as the communicative method, whole-body response method, situational teaching method, task-based teaching method, etc., combined with the actual English level of the class, and creatively improve some of the traditional teaching methods, so as to make them more suitable for the learning of the students in the class [7].

## **4.2. Methodological Guidance**

"Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime. " An important reason why students are not interested in learning is that they do not know how to learn. Some students are diligent and hardworking, every day, not only can not stimulate interest in learning, but also can not improve test scores, is because there is no correct use of learning methods. In this regard, teachers should pay attention to provide students with learning method guidance, such as: understanding the memory method, cite a method, etc., the reading, writing, tasting, thinking combined, so that students find the power point, so that students feel rewarded and improved, so that the students' attitude towards learning will have a certain change [1].

In addition, according to the characteristics of the discipline and the reality of students, teachers should cultivate and improve students' knowledge, skills and comprehensive ability in a planned and purposeful way, in order to improve students' learning autonomy and make students form active learning consciousness and inquiry consciousness [11].

## **4.3. Evaluation and Encouragement**

In academic life, everyone is subject to setbacks, difficulties and failures. However, in the case of secondary school students who are in the process of growing up, their knowledge and evaluation of themselves are often not objective enough, and they are more sceptical of their own abilities. They are more fragile psychologically, and they have a high sense of self-esteem, so the majority of teachers must pay attention to the psychological development of secondary school students, and give them the correct evaluation and encouragement.

First of all, in classroom teaching, teachers should let students self-evaluation, evaluation should have sufficient reasons, not exaggerate the facts, and then the teacher in the objective evaluation, the purpose is to allow students to participate in the evaluation of their own, so that he understands their own strengths and weaknesses, so that not only can improve the interest in learning, but also cultivate students' self-reflection and self-evaluation ability, so that students gradually learn to objectively understand the students' self-assessment of This can not only increase the interest in learning, but also cultivate students' self-reflection and self-evaluation ability, so that students gradually learn to know themselves objectively in self-evaluation[1].

At the same time, the students' learning achievements should be given timely evaluation and encouragement, praise each student's strengths, point out each student in the learning achievements of the highlights, and should be good at playing the role of excellent students to lead the demonstration, so that the students feel that their own efforts are rewarded, but also let the other students to learn, so that the whole class to form a benign competition, a two-in-one approach.

## **5. Conclusion**

In summary, it is of great significance to cultivate students' interest in learning in middle school teaching. Learning content, learning environment and learning achievement will affect students' interest in learning. Interest in learning is closely related to students' test scores, classroom

performance and personal development, and promotes each other. In the methods of cultivating middle school students' interest in learning, teachers should be good at using interesting guidance and method guidance to stimulate students' interest in learning. at the same time, teaches should also give students evaluation and encouragement to enhance their self-esteem and self-confidence. Middle school students' interest in learning helps to improve academic performance and academic performance, lays a solid foundation for students' academic development, and is of great significance to students' personal development in the future.

In recent years, with the continuous development of society and the continuous improvement of educational competition, many people seem to forget the original intention of education. Interest is the most fundamental power source of learning. Stimulating students' interest in learning is conducive to improving students' all-round development. Through the research on the influence of middle school students' learning interest on academic performance, this paper hopes to strengthen the importance of society, families and schools in cultivating students' interest in learning. Let students' mental health, academic achievement and personal future develop in an all-round way.

However, this study only summarizes the experience by reading the literature, and does not draw conclusions through the actual investigation and research. It is hoped that more comprehensive and accurate data and conclusions can be obtained by means of questionnaire survey and data statistics in the next study.

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