



2017

# Middle School: The Worst Years of My Life

Lisa Packard

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# Movie Review

**Title:** Middle School: The Worst Years of My Life  
**Main Performers:** Griffin Gluck, Lauren Graham, Alexa Nisenson  
**Director:** Steve Carr  
**Producer:** Steve Bowen, Susan Cartsonis, Michael Flynn  
**Reviewer:** Lisa Packard  
**Studio:** CBS Films  
**Year Released:** 2016  
**Run Time:** Time: 1hr 32min  
**MPAA Rating:** PG  
**Interest Level:** Primary, Intermediate  
**Rating:** Outstanding



## Review

After being kicked out of school after school, Rafe has one last chance before he has to go to a military school. When he arrives to his new middle school, he discovers the principle is crazy about rules and keeping all creativity out, which Rafe disagrees with. Leo, Rafe's best friend, comes up with a crazy plan to break all the school rules so that the students can have more fun. Slowly, things start to spiral out of control until Rafe and his entire homeroom is suspended and his teacher fired. Trying to fix the problem, Rafe tells the truth, causing him to be expelled. With nothing left to lose, Rafe uses pranks to expose the principle for cheating on tests to make his school the best. In the end, Rafe is able to let go of Leo, who is really his brother that died, and make new friends.

Griffin Gluck, who plays Rafe, does an amazing job of honestly portraying a teenager who lost his best friend and brother and is trying to cope with the change of being alone. The surprise reveal of Leo's identity at the end of the movie gives an insight to how some children deal with loss and pain. Rafe's artistic creativity is brought to life in the movie, making the story a little more silly and enjoyable for all ages. Rafe has both positive and negative interactions with the adults in his life. His mom and his teacher are very supportive and are always willing to listen to Rafe and help him out. On the other hand, Rafe's principle and Rafe's mom's boyfriend only care about themselves and not the feelings and thoughts of those around them, especially Rafe and what he was going through. Overall a great silly movie to make anyone laugh.

\*Contains mild language and mild sexual content.