



SCHOOL SUCCESS STRATEGIES

Children learn as much out of school as they do in school. They learn things at home and in their community. Children learn a great deal from their parents, and parents are important partners in the learning experience. Parental interest, common sense, and a few basic skills can help make a school a successful learning experience for children. Parental interest sends a strong message to children – that education is important, and that learning can be fun and worth the effort.

Homework is assigned by teachers for many reasons. It can give students extra practice time, apply information learned, and help them expand their knowledge beyond what they learned in class. Assignments are also a good way for children to learn to work independently. Homework assignments can also help; students work on bigger projects, learn about other resources, like encyclopedias and the web, and visit libraries.

Parent Responsibilities

- ✓ Set aside a special, quiet place with no distractions and good lighting for homework.
- ✓ Keep basic supplies like paper and pencils in a box in the homework area.
- ✓ Have a regular time each day to do homework to provide structure and consistency and be available during homework time.
- ✓ Help your child use organization tools, like school planners, calendars, and folders. Discuss the importance of these tools and connection to the “real world.”
- ✓ When children are assigned larger projects that require a few days or weeks to complete, help them to schedule their time and break the assignment into manageable pieces.
- ✓ Be supportive and encouraging. Look for areas of improvement.
- ✓ Remember that it is your child’s homework, not yours.
- ✓ Email the teacher if there are homework problems or issues you can’t resolve. Do it earlier, rather than later before it becomes a major issue.
- ✓ Encourage self-advocacy. Encourage your child to ask teachers for help if needed.
- ✓ Keep lines of communication open (always works best without lecture or judgment).
- ✓ Check *Infinite Campus* with your child on a weekly basis to view your child’s progress.
- ✓ Remember that your student’s counselor is always available for support and guidance.

Student Responsibilities

- ✓ Take responsibility for your own learning.
- ✓ Use planner daily to list all homework assignments.
- ✓ Complete all homework assignments nightly, and turn them in on time.

- ✓ Ask questions and take advantage of extended learning times to get assistance from teachers when needed.
- ✓ Keep a separate folder for each subject.
- ✓ Check *Infinite Campus* weekly and reconcile any missing assignments with teachers.
- ✓ Pack binder/backpack with all assignment the night before.
- ✓ Ask your parents, siblings, etc. for help when needed at home.
- ✓ Self-advocate – Ask for what you need!
- ✓ Be honest and open with your parents, teachers, and counselors on how things are going.
- ✓ Remember that your grade-level counselor is always available for support and guidance.

Communication Tips for Discussing School

1. Be open and calm.
2. Avoid lecturing and judging (as hard as it may be, you eventually get more information from your student than you ever dreamed).
3. Ask probing, open-ended questions and then listen as open-minded as possible. As Steven Covey suggests, “seek first to understand before being understood.”
4. When you ask your student “How is school going?”, follow up with questions that help validate their answer such as “What does fine mean?”, “What is going well?”, “How do you know it’s going well?”
5. Help them to set goals and “paint the picture” for you.
 - What do you want school to be like for you?
 - What do you want to get from school?
 - What will you have when you get...?
 - What will it say about you?
 - What will you do to get what you want?
 - How do you think you will feel when you get it?
 - Is what you are doing now working? How do you know?