

HELPING WITH HOMEWORK

Parents promote academic success, when they encourage their children to complete their homework on time and to the best of their ability. Homework reinforces skills learned in the classroom, provides additional practice, allows students to work independently, and maintains a link between home and school. Homework also provides an opportunity for parents to see what their children are learning in school and how their children are progressing.

Tips for Parents

#1 – Show that education and homework are important.

- Set a regular time and a quiet place for completing homework.
- Have readily available homework supplies: paper, pencils, and a dictionary. Ask if special materials will be needed for upcoming projects.
- Encourage your child to be responsible for completing and returning homework.
- Talk with your child about school. You might say, “Show me what you learned in math today,” or, “Tell me about the book you are reading.”
- Help your child set learning goals that are challenging yet attainable.
- Be positive about homework and reinforce that school is important.

#2 – Monitor your child’s work.

- Encourage your child to keep a calendar of homework assignments and their due dates. Regularly review the calendar and homework folder.
- When your child asks for help, provide guidance – not answers.
- Watch for signs of frustration. Your child may benefit from completing the harder assignments first when he is most alert.
- Consider dividing lengthy assignments into more manageable parts. Set realistic time frames for completing each task.
- Check returned assignments for teacher comments.
- Celebrate success to promote your child’s effort, progress, and hard work.

#3 – Communicate with your child’s teacher.

- Identify teacher expectations for completing homework.
- Use phone calls, notes, or emails to contact the teacher.
- If difficulties arise, request a conference and create a plan to address the issues.
- Continue to communicate with the teacher to make sure the plan is working.

Questions about homework to ask your child’s teacher

- What are the daily and weekly expectations regarding homework? What is the homework policy?
- What types of assignments will my child receive?
- How will homework impact grading?
- How will I know what my child’s homework assignment is?
- How much notice will be provided for long-range assignments?
- How will I know if my child is completing all assignments successfully?
- How much time do you suggest that we set aside for homework each evening?
- What type of involvement do you expect parents to have with homework?
- How much help should we give our child?
- What if my child cannot complete the assignment?
- How can I help my child be prepared and organized?
- Are there any specific study skills or habits that would be helpful?