

Tips for parents

Setting the foundation for student achievement



Family involvement: key to student success

- ✿ Communicate high expectations.
- ✿ Ask questions about your child's school work and relate it to everyday events.
- ✿ Make homework a priority. Encourage your child to work independently, but offer assistance when necessary.
- ✿ Give your child responsibility both at home, in the community and your place of worship. Encourage volunteerism, and model good citizenship for your child.
- ✿ Encourage your child to keep a journal and to participate in school publications.



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Getting involved with your child

- ✿ Take time each day to listen to what is important in your child's world. Share in your child's joys and accomplishments.
- ✿ Eat dinner together and talk about what your child is learning. Pass around any papers your child has brought home. Or start off the day together with time for a sit-down breakfast and encouraging conversation.
- ✿ Focus on the information and skills your child has learned as a result of recent tests or reports.
- ✿ Teach your children to learn from their mistakes instead of being discouraged by them. Share your own errors, and then talk about solutions.
- ✿ Encourage participation in extracurricular activities, such as sports, music, debate teams and drama. Involved students usually have a more positive attitude toward school.

Getting involved with teachers

- ✿ Attend parent-teacher conferences.
- ✿ Ask for advice. Teachers can help you reinforce at home what your child has learned in school.
- ✿ Contact teachers between formal conferences to catch up on your child's progress. Check to see if email is the teacher's preferred mode of contact.
- ✿ Respond to report cards and other communications.
- ✿ When teachers call for help with school projects, pitch in.
- ✿ If your children experience difficulties in school, join forces with the teacher to help them find success. Ask for suggestions about what you can do to help your child.

Getting involved with the school community

- ✿ Take part in PTA meetings to keep informed about the school community.
- ✿ Go to back-to-school night. It shows your child that you care about education, and it is a chance to talk to teachers in an informal setting.
- ✿ Read school newsletters and local newspapers for information on your community and on developments in education across the state and the nation.
- ✿ Stay involved. Junior high and high school students do appreciate parental involvement — even if they don't admit it.