



How Can I Support My Child's Learning?

One of the goals of middle level education is to transfer responsibility from parent/guardian to student. Much of our curriculum is designed to teach students to become responsible, self-directed learners. Parents can aid these efforts in many ways, including:

1. **Ensure that your child attends school every day.** When students miss school, they miss instruction. While some students make up missed work with ease, many do not. Students who miss multiple days can develop gaps in their learning. These gaps can become permanent - especially if a student has excessive absences year after year. No student should attend school while sick or under a doctor's care but all students should attend school every day that they are able.
2. **Get involved.** Get involved in your child's school program - join the PTA and attend their monthly meetings. If possible, volunteer to assist with one or two activities per year (field trip chaperone, Library volunteer, activity nights, etc.) Attend evening programs that our school offers for parents. There are only a few of these per year and they are tailored to help parents raise successful, happy children. These activities do not require much time and will keep you connected to your child's world. Being involved sends a strong message to your children that their world is important to you.
3. **Monitor your child's schoolwork and grades - online and in person.** Student grades are posted online and parents have access to this information 24/7. Homework is posted daily as well. Confidential usernames and passwords are distributed at the beginning of every school year (usually at Back to School Night.) Monitor your child's grades throughout the year and encourage your child to do the same. Help your child set goals and structure their study routine so that they can achieve them. Put an incentive plan in place if necessary to motivate your child. If your child continues to struggle, contact his/her teachers and schedule a team meeting to discuss an intervention plan. If your child's teachers request a meeting - attend that meeting and welcome the opportunity to help your child succeed.
4. **Follow through with your efforts.** Parenting is a full-time job that is challenging and sometimes confusing. Parents have to make difficult - and often unpopular - choices regularly for the sake of their child's safety and development. The time and energy you invest in your children now will help them become independent, capable, and happy adults in the future. That's the goal. Rest assured that your efforts today will pay off in the future. Childhood years are fleeting and there are no "do-overs." Stay strong now and make hard choices with confidence. Your child will thank you in the future.

