

Parents Frequently Asked Questions

<p>How can I help my child get more organized?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students should have <u>one binder</u> and a system to manage it. Talk to them on how they could manage their work within the binder. There should be 5 dividers and their current work is always placed in the divider on top of older work stored there for each class. They can place their completed homework here as well, with a post it note on it to flag it for turn in the next day. All loose leaf paper in the back of dividers. • Try to avoid anything that has pockets, such as folders. The child will be prone to shoving everything and anything in these folders and then the papers will be harder to find and bent due to the shoving. Less is more when trying to organize a child, simplicity is the key to success. • Take a moment and watch them when they are getting things in and out of their backpack. If the backpack starts to explode with papers, pens and gadgets, then you know that this child needs some advice on how to manage their backpack as well. • Ongoing monitoring is required of our disorganized child. To be organized is a huge learning curve and for some not very motivating. If you can help motivate them to be more organized the lesson will be easier to acquire. Doing weekly binder and backpack checks with an incentive plan could help turn the tide for your child. If you have an allowance program this could be built into it easily, since it is their job to do well at school. 	<p>How can I help my child with homework at home?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be sure to have a dedicated area where your child can have time that is stimulus free but under some supervision. • Help your child approach the homework time in positive light by having a pleasant location, a snack prior to beginning, supervision as to help them stay focused on their actions, access to the things they may need to get their work done (books, computer, paper, pens, etc). • Use a timer for those students that need a motivation to stay focused. Set the timer for 15 to 20 minutes and then allow them to get up for a few minutes to recharge the mind and the behind. They will work harder when they know they have a set time. Then they return for another 15 to 20 minutes and hopefully they will be done at the end of this second set. • Key to their success with homework is their planner. They should be using it during the day and then it should be the first thing they view when they begin their homework. At completion of the homework they should go back to the planner and check it off. At this time it may be advised for you to view the homework paper for completion, neatness and accuracy. Also, watch them put the homework paper away in the proper location in their binder. • The planner can be signed by the teacher each day in order to verify that the student has written the correct homework down, if needed. • The teacher's website will also give you information on the assignments. Many times the document that may be lost or forgotten will be found online for downloading and the teachers could provide calendars with assignments posted.
<p>How can I help my child get their work turned in?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First, read the above on how to get organized. • Next you can develop a method for homework that is a little more apparent in the binder system. Rather than put the homework in the divider for the class, the student could use plastic sheet protectors placed in front of the 5 dividers for his homework. He will see those items every time he opens his binder that day, hopefully be reminded that those are the items for turn in and he shouldn't be going home with them still there at the end of day. • You can also start a <u>daily progress notice</u> with the teachers. That way you will have daily feedback on the work turned in that day, and can implement consequences at home if the report for the day is negative. The recommendation is that the student stays on the daily progress notice until they have earned the privilege to discontinue the daily checks through successfully getting all work turned over a large period of time (suggested time: one quarter). • Listening in class for the directions on how the work will be collected and when it is collected is important. Talking to your child about the importance of paying proper attention in order to get the work turned in with the rest of the class will re-enforce your expectations of how they should behave in class. 	<p>How can I help my child develop study skills?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First, there are many excellent websites that provide wonderful information on study skill strategies. • Be sure to have a dedicated area where your child can have time that is stimulus free, nothing to distract him or her while spending quality time with the books. • Spend time with the textbook and have them read to you. Talk about the content. Then show them how to take that information and put it into notes. Have them do notes regularly, beyond the normal homework. The notes are now a tool for study and they have been given the time to practice their notetaking skills. • Flash cards are a great tool if they are used <u>after</u> they make them. They are portable and you don't have to sit at a table to manipulate them. The kinesthetic child can walk, dance and move while studying. The visual child can add color and pictures. The auditory child can recite the content out loud. They are great for studying with a partner. • Mindmaps are great visuals to create using the right brain, the more artistic side. The textbooks will have appendices to illustrate this tool. It is a great way to interact with the content and your child while practicing a study skill. A roll of butcher paper and lots of color markers will be handy in order to produce a great mindmap. • If they have an Interactive Reading book for their class, they can write in these and highlight key points. Spending some time with your child showing how to highlight just the key points and NOT everything and writing their own thoughts in the margins to help them understand the material is a great and useful strategy. Then it becomes a great review tool just before the test.
<p>What Can my Child do to make up work?</p> <p>Child was absent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The student will check online for the calendar and record the information found there into their planner. • They will check in class for the ABSENT binder, folder or box to get the copies of work needed to be completed. • They can call a "study buddy" to get any help they may need. • They will talk to the teacher to schedule a time to get the help needed to complete the work. It may be at RAM or at an after school tutorial. • They need to make up work as soon as possible in order to stay current with the learning and not to affect their grade. <p>Child didn't meet the deadline for turning in their work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The student will need to talk to the teacher regarding each missing piece of work and ask if they can still turn the item into the teacher. • They may have to stay for an after school tutorial to "pay" for their deed and to get the help they may need to complete the work. • There may still be a penalty of deducted points on the assignment when it comes in because of it being late. • The student will turn in the late work into the late box or hand it directly to the teacher depending on what the teacher prefers. 	

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