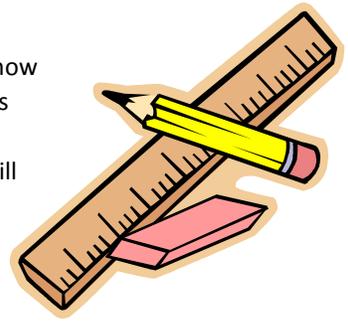


Dear Sixth Grade Families,

As the start of the year craziness settles down and everyone falls into a more consistent routine, now is a great time to begin creating proactive and positive routines for your student. Each student and family is different, and everyone has different afterschool activities that may affect their schedule, but making homework time a part of your everyday routine will help students see the importance of homework and will give them a sense of security knowing that no matter how crazy each day is, they will have a time to do their work. Take a look at the following list of suggestions and choose the ones that you feel will help your student be successful!



Suggestions for homework routines:

Homework Space:

Create a homework space for your student. This space should be the same for them every night. Any materials that your student may need should be within arm's reach so that students do not need to get up and get distracted to find materials. Encourage and help your student keep this area organized and neat. Creating a consistent, neat, and well stocked homework area for your student will help them feel a sense of maturity and show the importance of homework.

Homework Routine

As much as possible, make your afterschool routine consistent. Sixth graders are facing so many changes at school, socially and physically; they will benefit tremendously from a consistent homework routine that makes them feel in control of something. Do your best to make it the same each night. Structure it so that students are given the chance to take breaks after so much time or after each assignment is complete. Remove distractions as much as possible; that includes TV, game consoles, sibling noise etc. Check in with your student every so often; sixth graders are very good at looking busy! We want to make sure they are doing quality work, and thinking about the work being done. Ask them to explain the assignment or the concept. Creating a consistent homework routine, again, shows your student that you are involved and that homework is an important part of school.

Planners

Your student's teachers do not check planners for parent signatures; however, we ALL give your student time to write down homework as a part of our classroom routine. Use the planners to foster responsibility within your student; it can even be turned into a reward system. Check the planners each night. Something should be written in every core class box (History, English, Math, Science). If students do not have work written down, use our cquad.weebly.com site to help fill in the missing information. You can reward your student for each week that the planners are completely filled in. Sixth grade is a huge year for students learning to monitor their own education. While encouraging your student to be responsible for themselves, make sure you are cross checking the websites to keep on top of homework completion.

Backpack Cleaning

Organization is a HUGE struggle for students in sixth grade. We recommend that students keep their backpacks as organized as possible. Sit with your students and go through their backpacks with them once a week (or more if needed). Do not do it for them. One of the most common phrases we hear when work is missing is, "My Mom/Dad threw that away when **they** cleaned out my backpack." Sit with them, pull loose items out and ask them where it belongs. Talk to them about the importance of organization.

Backpack Packing

Help your student pack their backpacks each night before they go to bed. This will help your students sleep better knowing that their backpacks are ready to go in the morning. This is also a great chance for you to check homework for completion; as you pack backpacks, ask student to see the completed homework for each class. This is your chance to quality control. Not to mention, it will get both you and your student out of the house much faster in the morning!

Remember, your sixth grader is going through a lot of changes. The more proactive you are with your students this year, the more successful they will be. Choose one or two of the suggestions above and start creating strong routines for your students now. Keep in mind, consistency is very important to creating successful routines. Don't try to enact them all and then lose track of them. Start with one. Talk with your students about the rationale for the routine to help them see the importance of it. Mirror the actions you are asking your students to do; pay bills as they do homework, clean out your purse, wallet or briefcase after you help them with their backpacks. Show them that these are actions of successful adults.