

Homework & Study Tips

Homework and study are important parts of the educational process...
... but we all know that homework is not the most popular activity of the day,
... or that all students instinctively know how to study.

Homework is important if you're a student because it reinforces lessons taught in class. It allows students to put extra effort into special subject areas and makes class participation and involvement *easier* and more fun. It also teaches how to budget time, develop self-reliance, acquire good study habits and improve research techniques.

Homework is important if you're a parent because it's a visible, ongoing measure of the student's progress and helps to strengthen coordination and cooperation between home and school. It may include the completion of work begun at school, practice of skills, preparation for future discussions or class work or review and preparation for assessments.

Homework gives students the opportunity to achieve higher academic standards, improve study skills and attitudes, master subject matter, acquire organizational skills, and develop self-discipline.

The best help ... support from parents!

A parent's positive interest can really influence student attitudes towards homework and study habits. This support and interest should start in the early grades and continue all the way through high school. The key word in helping your child is support:

Show your interest and concern for your child's efforts and achievements.

Understand that children have many interests and activities competing for their time, and help them learn to organize the time they spend on both their study and their other interests.

Provide a quiet, regular working area where there will be as few distractions as possible!

Practice is important when it comes to subjects like mathematics and reading. Involve yourself as an audience or an assistant, and watch the practice pay off.

Opt out sometimes. Too much help with studying can sometimes make your child overly dependent on you and therefore slow to develop independent work habits.

Remember that you have probably acquired some of the knowledge and information your child needs for homework and study projects.

Teachers are there to help. If you have any concerns about homework, and your child's study habits, discuss them with your child's teacher.

Some study tips for ... students!

Select a spot at home with minimum disruption and good lighting, where you can concentrate on what you're doing.

Try a schedule that lets you take breaks and test your schedule for one week. If it works, stick to it; if it doesn't, change it and test again.

Use your time wisely and make study an important priority. In other words, study when it's time to study so you can play and relax when it's time to play and relax.

Don't fall behind in your studies. Follow up classroom work with study in the same subject that evening, and you'll find it much easier to get ready for a test.

You can expand your interest (and knowledge) in a certain subject area by looking for supplementary materials (ask your teacher for suggestions).

Take a close look at the notes you keep. Good notes are very important and very helpful. Organize them immediately after class when the information is still fresh; review them the same evening; and refer back to them when it's time to start studying for tests.

Information is retained best, according to psychologists, if reviewed within 24 hours, and again within a week. Simply put, it's a good idea to review frequently.

Preparation for tests or other assessments should not just happen the night before! Make review an ongoing part of your homework schedule.

Study is an acquired skill – something you have to learn how to do. If you have not always found it to be easy, ask someone – your teacher, a friend or your parent to help you with a plan!