



SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION

Parents and families play an important role in the homework process. Together, families can help children develop good study habits and attitudes that lead to becoming lifelong learners. Your job is not to do the work for them, but to provide support, encouragement and ask questions that help them arrive at the answers themselves.

Why do teachers give homework?

Teachers use homework:

- To help students understand and review the work that has been covered in class
- To see whether students understand the lesson
- To help students learn how to find and use more information on a subject

To teach responsibility and routine

FAFSA FACTS

No one loves the word “free” more than a college student. By filling out the FAFSA, you can get more than freebie T-shirts and slices of pizza: You can get financial aid for college.

The FAFSA, officially known as the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, is the form that families fill out to apply for federal grants, loans, and work-study funds for college students. It is administered by the U.S. Department of Education, which provides more than \$150 billion in student aid each year

Your eligibility for federal grants (which don't have to be repaid) and federal loans (which do) will generally be based on your financial need, as determined by the information you supply on your FAFSA.

USE EARLIER INCOME AND TAX INFORMATION:

Beginning with the 2017–18 FAFSA, students will be required to report income and tax information from an earlier tax year. For example, on the 2017–18 FAFSA, students (and parents, as appropriate) will report their 2015 income and tax information, rather than their 2016 income and tax information.

Help Your Child Avoid SPRING FEVER

The warmer springtime air beckons as the trees are budding. Just as young minds are tempted to wander from school and homework, it's the time to buckle down, to prepare for the last months of school and the culmination of a year's worth of hard work.

Learn what to do when your child catches spring fever to help them stay focused in school until the final bell rings. After all, it's not summer vacation just yet.

1. Plan for Outside Time Not only are the days longer, they're warmer and sunnier. Kids start feeling the call to be out of doors – and that's a good thing. Allow them time to enjoy the outdoors. Doing so will meet your children's need to get outside so they can better focus when they're back inside. How about encouraging one of these activities?
 - a. Doing homework outside.
 - b. Going to the park for a picnic dinner
 - c. Playing a game of Frisbee after school.

Allow kids some down time. Help them learn how to let go of stress by doing things they enjoy. Let them decompress by playing with friends, watching a movie, or exercising. They'll come back from their break refreshed and ready to work.

2. Create a “study zone” Create a place that's conducive to productive study and concentration. The area should be comfortable, quiet, void of distractions, and stocked with necessary supplies. Encourage your kids to put away cell phones and turn off their computer chatting programs. Designate a time period for homework, and try to have kids work at the same time each day. With these parameters in place, they'll be in the frame of mind to get down to business.
3. Encourage Exercise There's a built-in benefit to warmer weather; it lets kids blow off steam and burn energy outdoors. Studies show that exercise can actually help kids focus. So encourage your child to go for a run or a bike ride or play outdoor games.
4. Leave Room for Exceptions If you allow a little wiggle room, the gratitude may go a long way. If it means you give them an extra reminder when it's time to come in and get ready for bed, don't worry. Compromising every now and then won't affect their overall ability to focus. And it might make them more motivated to get done the things they have to.

By implementing these strategies, you can help your kids complete the last months of school on a successful note. Then, when that final bell rings and the summer months begin, they will be able to truly enjoy their break, free from academic cares, knowing they finished at their best.

Hamilton Elementary School held its STEM Parent Involvement Night on Tuesday, March 21



Hamilton Elementary School held its STEM Parent Involvement Night on Tuesday, March 21. Students created projects during the class day involving wind. Wind powered cars, helicopters, and windmills were some of the projects created by students. During the evening, parents were invited to create the same projects. Parents also joined students in making bird feeders for the outdoor classroom and painting pavers for the sensory walkway. An outstanding highlight of STEM night was the arrival of a helicopter from the Georgia State Patrol. Students, parents and staff enjoyed learning about wind.