



ROUNDTABLE

NEWS AND VIEWS FOR AND FROM KNIGHTS

Homework Tips for Parents

from the US Department of Education



Research shows that parent involvement can have either a positive or negative impact on the value of homework. Parent involvement can be used to speed up a child's learning. Homework can involve parents in the school process. It can enhance parents' appreciation of education. It can give them an opportunity to express positive attitudes about the value of success in school.

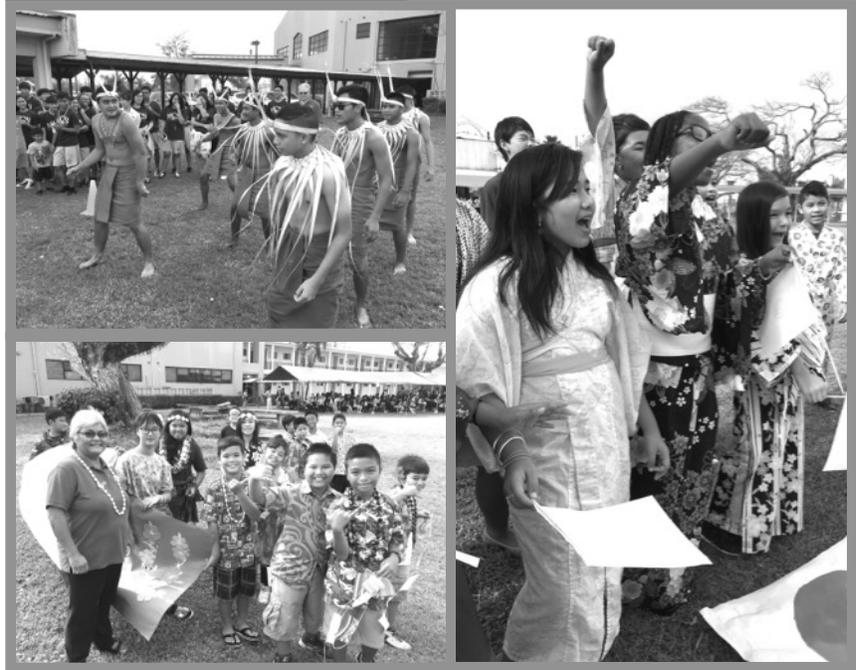
But parent involvement may also interfere with learning. For example, parents can confuse children if the teaching techniques they use differ from those used in the classroom. Parent involvement in homework can turn into parent interference if parents complete tasks that the child is capable of completing alone.

When mothers and fathers get involved with their children's homework, communication between the school and family can improve. It can clarify for parents what is expected of students. It can give parents a firsthand idea of what students are learning and how well their child is doing in school.

Research shows that if a child is having difficulty with homework, parents should become involved by paying close attention. They should expect more requests from teachers for their help. If a child is doing well in school, parents should consider shifting their efforts to providing support for their child's own choices about how to do homework. Parents should avoid interfering in the independent completion of assignments.

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Preparing for Cultural Diversity Day



Some images from last year's celebration of Cultural Diversity Day, clockwise from top left: Sophomores represent Carolinian culture with a traditional dance. 5th grade students represent Japanese culture. 6th grade students and their teacher, Carmen Agulto, proudly represent Hawaiian culture.

Although CNMI Cultural Diversity Day is weeks away, Mount Carmel School has begun preparing for the event by planning numerous events to commemorate the occasion.

Set for October 7th, the day will kick off with a parade showcasing the various cultures of the student body: K-4: Jamaica, K-5: Thailand, 1st: USA, 2nd: China, 3rd: France, 4th: Philippines, 5th: Germany, 6th: FSM, 7th: India, 8th: Japan, 9th: Russia, 10th: Mexico, 11th: CNMI, and 12th: Korea.

The parade will give students the opportunity to wear cultural attire, design banners, and even perform songs, dances, and skits. Later in the day, students will compete in field events and classrooms will host potluck lunches with a wide variety of cultural dishes.

In addition to these activities, Student Council will continue with contests it started last year, a class poster contest for grades K to 5, an individual poetry contest for grades 6 to 8, and an individual essay contest for grades 9 to 12.

For Student Council president, Zeno Deleon Guerrero, it is important to celebrate the school's and the islands' diversity. As he put it, "Students are really excited because we mixed things up a bit this year, especially since they get to represent new cultures that we haven't represented below."

Coming off the success of the ceremonies for the 15th anniversary of 9/11, Deleon Guerrero also wanted to keep the student body engaged with their community. He added, "We are part of the community so we need to stay in touch with that community, which is part of our bigger island family."

Announcements

NMIFA NEA Soccer Tryouts

The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association will have a one day try-out for the National Elite Academy for 4th & 5th graders on Friday, September 30, from 3:15 to 4:00 pm at the Ada Soccer Field. Open to boys and girls that are US citizens. For more information, see John Blanco or May Ling Columbo.

In the Future

NSDA & NJSDA Orientation & Workshop

TOMORROW, Saturday, September 24
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Room A-101

Junior Truffle Gram

Monday, September 26

Sophomore Candy Gram

Wednesday, September 28

Outrigger Hot Lunch

Thursday, September 29

Outrigger Car Wash

Saturday, October 1

MCS Cultural Diversity Day

Friday, October 7

Sports Calendar

CCOPSA Middle School Volleyball

CCOPSA Middle School Volleyball

Tuesday, September 27
MCS1 v SCS @ SCS at 3:30 pm
MCS2 v MBA @ MBA at 3:30 pm

Wednesday, September 28
MCS1 v GCA1 @ MCS @ 3:30 pm
MCS2 v SIS2 @ SIS at 3:30 pm

Thursday, September 29
MCS1 v SIS2 @ MCS at 3:30 pm
MCS2 v SIS1 @ SIS at 3:30 pm

ESLR of the Week

#2. Consistently exhibit Catholic attitudes, values and behaviors.

Homework Tips

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As this brief introduction suggests, homework can be an effective way for students to improve their learning and for parents to communicate their appreciation of schooling. Because a great many things influence the impact of homework achievement, expectations for homework's effects, especially in the earlier grades, must be realistic.

Make sure your child has a quiet, well-lit place to do homework.

Avoid having your child do homework with the television on or in places with other distractions, such as people coming and going.

Make sure the materials your child needs, such as paper, pencils and a dictionary, are available.

Ask your child if special materials will be needed for some projects and get them in advance.

Help your child with time management.

Establish a set time each day for doing homework. Don't let your child leave homework until just before bedtime. Think about using a weekend morning or afternoon for working on big projects, especially if the project involves getting together with classmates.

Be positive about homework.

Tell your child how important school is. The attitude you express about homework will be the attitude your child acquires.

When your child does homework, you do homework.

Show your child that the skills they are learning are related to things you do as an adult. If your child is reading, you read too. If your child is doing math, balance your checkbook.

When your child asks for help, provide guidance, not answers.

Giving answers means your child will not learn the material. Too much help teaches your child that when the going gets rough, someone will do the work for him or her.

When the teacher asks that you play a role in homework, do it.

Cooperate with the teacher. It shows your child that the school and home are a team. Follow the directions given by the teacher.

If homework is meant to be done by your child alone, stay away.

Too much parent involvement can prevent homework from having some positive effects. Homework is a great way for kids to develop independent, lifelong learning skills.

Stay informed.

Talk with your child's teacher. Make sure you know the purpose of

homework and what your child's class rules are.

Help your child figure out what is hard homework and what is easy homework.

Have your child do the hard work first. This will mean he will be most alert when facing the biggest challenges. Easy material will seem to go fast when fatigue begins to set in.

Watch your child for signs of failure and frustration.

Let your child take a short break if she is having trouble keeping her mind on an assignment.

Reward progress in homework.

If your child has been successful in homework completion and is working hard, celebrate that success with a special event (e.g., pizza, a walk, a trip to the park) to reinforce the positive effort.

Homework can be an effective way for students to improve their learning and for parents to communicate their appreciation of schooling.

