

## ***Tips to help you Child to Succeed in School***

- 1. Keep in mind that your child's most important "job" is to be a good student. Your most important job is to be a good parent, which includes, among other things, educating your child.**
- 2. You are the helper in your child's experience as a student. Encourage your child to take as much responsibility as possible.**
- 3. Be aware of your child's favored learning style – visual, auditory, kinesthetic.... left brain dominant or right brain dominant. Try to help your child using methods that tend to work for people of his/her learning style.**
- 4. Be sensitive/trusting in your feelings as a parent regarding any special needs you observe in your child.**
- 5. Keep in touch with your child's teacher/teachers and follow the teachers lead whenever possible, BUT also follow your instinct regarding your child. Don't forget that the teacher has a class of 20-25 students or more, and it is impossible for him/her to thoroughly know your child's needs & abilities.**
- 6. Keep in mind what brings school success**
  - Regular attendance**
  - Paying attention in class**
  - Making a serious effort on homework**

## TALKING TO TEACHERS

1) **Your child's teachers are well educated professionals** – so you can expect a lot of them .....

**But they are human, and like others suffer from stress, sickness, family problems and just plain bad days.**

When trying to contact a teacher call a second time, if necessary – things happen.

2) **The earlier in the school year the better to get in contact with your child's teacher (s)** – ask the teacher to get in touch with you at the first sign of a problem.

3) **Parent Allies – Some teachers will go above and beyond in helping you.** They will provide extra help/reduce assignments/make special arrangements.

**Whether or not you like your child's teacher personally** – develop a Working relationship – listen to each other, and you need to attend Open Houses and Parent-Teacher Conferences.

4) **Parents and teachers working together increases the likelihood of school problems being solved.**

5) **Positive communications** – too often messages bring bad news – if you have good news about your child which pertains to school pass it on to the teacher.

6) **Try to work out classroom problems with the teacher first, BUT** if you don't think the teacher is ready or willing or able to take care of the problem, contact the principal or guidance counselor.

7) **Prepare concerns and questions to ask the teacher before you meet with him/her, and make sure you feel your questions have been answered completely.**

8) **Consider whether or not you want to bring your child with you to a Parent-Teacher conference.** Sometimes it is a good idea and sometimes it is not.

# **Helping your Child with Homework.....**

## **1. Who's responsible?**

1. The teacher is responsible for giving "good" homework assignments.
2. The child is responsible for making sure to bring the work home from school and to take it back.
3. The parent is responsible for providing a good place for the child to do homework, and for providing (or arranging for) help if necessary.

## **2. Discipline regarding homework –**

1. Your child's homework is probably not your favorite activity, nor is it your child's. Talk to your child about this.
2. It is best to have very clear rules about doing/not doing homework.

**3. Encourage your child by sitting nearby as your child does homework, and be available to help out if necessary.**

**4. Focus on the most important subjects first...reading, writing, math.**

**5. Don't do your child's homework for him/her. It is fine to demonstrate how to do the work.**

**6. It's fine for your child to take a break from a hard assignment, but make sure he/she gets back to work as soon as possible.**

**7. Don't hesitate to go beyond the school when teachers aren't ready, willing, or able to offer adequate help to your child.**

**8. Talk to your child's teacher or counselor or principal about a reasonable amount of time to be spent on homework.**