

HOMWORK TIPS

By Kathy Weller

TRY THIS AT HOME

- Use your Agenda to keep track of assignments. Break up large assignments and work on a section every day, instead of waiting till the end and panicking! If a test is coming up study a little every day – avoid the anxiety of last-minute cramming!
Finish all your homework listed in your agenda and turn it in on time. (Parent Tip: check your student’s agenda and make sure homework is done every day)
- Designate your own “study space” at home that is well-lighted and free of distractions. Make a pledge to do your homework BEFORE watching TV/Videos or playing outside. Use these things as REWARDS instead of as “homework avoidance activities”! (Parent Tip: Help your student personalize and organize their study space, or if it’s the kitchen table prepare a special snack for a break)
- Having math troubles? Most math sites have good examples of problems in the chapter preceding the assignment. For the different work problems, they refer you to the page where you will find a similar example of the problem. Take a few minutes to study these, and the solution may be easier than you think. (Parent Tip: Try to use the examples to work through problems with your child. You may be surprised at how much you remember from your own school days.)
- If you need help ask a parent, a trusted adult or a friend to work with you. Don’t be shy about asking questions. Students, by definition, are not expected to know everything. That’s why you’re in school! If you need to know something ask, ask and keep asking until you find the answer. (Parent Tip: Sometimes we can’t help with homework because we’re not familiar/don’t remember the material – but we CAN offer support & encouragement. Sometimes kids just need a confidence boost.)
- Falling asleep in class does not make for effective learning. Information does not seep into your brain by osmosis! Active learning requires an alert mind, so take care of yourself, eat healthy foods and get to bed earlier!
- At school, keep your locker clean and supplies in order so you can grab and get to the next class without forgetting anything. Clean your locker out every 9 weeks. Throw papers away you don’t need and replenish supplies. (Parent Tip: this is a good parent/student bonding activity)