

GUIDANCE CORNER

Welcome to the 2007-08 school year at Mystic Middle School! As we start the year, it is very important for students to set personal and academic goals. Students should develop both short and long term goals to help them achieve success. Parents can help their child achieve success by getting actively involved in the educational process. A key ingredient to active involvement is communication. Communication between parents, students, and educators promotes the understanding of expectations and needs. In order for students to be successful, they must develop adequate organizational skills and study skills. Reward your child for achieving his or her goals.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

Organization

1. Use the student agenda book to keep track of assignments, due dates, and other obligations.
2. Store supplies in one place. Storing things in multiple areas will cause students to lose them.
3. Use color-coded folders to keep track of your various subjects and assignments.

Study Skills

1. Promote great habits right from the start!
2. Don't procrastinate. Start projects and study for assessments over several days rather than beginning the process the night before it is due. Studying over a period of time prevents careless mistakes and promotes real learning. Breaking down large tasks into smaller parts makes learning and understanding the material easier.
3. Establish a regular time and quiet space free of distractions, to complete homework. For example, establishing a daily one hour block with your child where it is understood that during that time whether there is homework or not, they will work either reading a newspaper or researching a topic on the internet, will promote good study skills and habits for a lifelong learner.
4. Parents should regularly check their child's work and offer assistance. It would be a good idea for parents to get involved in their child's learning by making sure an hour a night is spent on homework.
5. Try to connect content and textbook material to the real world. If students can relate content to their real life, then they will learn more. Parents may consider

having their child spend some time reading about a topic of interest (i.e. magazine article) on a daily basis and then discuss the article with them.

6. Avoid distractions. Televisions, cell phones and radios limit students' ability to focus on what they are working on.

Rewards

1. Celebrate success-small rewards for a job well done keep students motivated.
2. Praise your child! Students, and especially teenagers, are constantly seeking approval.
3. Challenge them to do their best.