



Homework: An Opportunity for the Whole Family

“Homework is an opportunity for children to learn and for families to be involved in their children’s education.” *Nancy Paulu*

How to Help: Show that you think Education and Homework are Important

- Set a Regular Time for Homework: A time that works for the student and family.
- Pick a Place: A place with good lighting and that is fairly quiet.
- Remove Distractions: Turn off the TV and discourage child from making social phone calls.
- Provide Supplies and Identify Resources: Provide supplies needed for the assignment.
- Set a Good Example: Allow the child to see you read books, the newspaper, etc.
- Be Interested and Interesting: Talk about school and learning activities in family conversations.

How to Help: Monitor Assignments

- Ask about the School’s Homework Policy: Ask the teacher about their homework expectations.
- Be Available: Assure that assignments are clear and necessary materials are provided.
- Look over Completed Assignment: Check that the child’s homework is completed.
- Check Edline. Need help? Call your child’s counselor at 301.253.7015

How to Help: Provide Guidance

- Help your Child get Organized: Write out the assignments and provide homework folders.
- Talk about the Assignments: Ask your child if they understand the assignment.
- Watch for Frustration: Let your student take breaks.
- Give Praise: “You’ve done a great job” can go a long way towards motivating a child.
- Encourage Good Study Habits:
 - Help your child manage their time to complete homework.
 - Help your child to get started when he/she has to do research reports or other big assignments.
 - Give practice tests.
 - Help your child avoid last minute cramming.
 - Talk with your child about how to take a test.

Tips from the Baker Middle School Counselors

1. Encourage your child to record their homework in their agenda daily. Students should write “None”.
2. Assist your child with cleaning their backpack **weekly** to maintain it and keep it organized.
3. Organize assignments no longer needed for school at home and not in the backpack.
4. Provide students with a folder for each subject and one for homework assignments.
5. Maintain contact with your child’s teacher to monitor their progress.
6. Your child should call her/his "homework buddy" that evening to get the class work and homework assignments. Encourage your child to have a homework buddy in each class, selected for this purpose.
7. If your child knows in advance that (s)he will be absent, (s)he should check will all of her/his teachers during to get advance assignments where they are available.
8. If your child is absent for three days or more, you may call Baker’s counseling secretary at (301)253-7015 on or after the second day of the extended absence. Assignments will be available for pick-up between 3:00 PM and 4:00 PM the next school day.
9. When your child returns to school after an absence, (s)he should check in with each of her/his teachers during the first day back for any missed assignments and/or make arrangements to make up missed tests etc.

