

## TIPS FOR PARENTS

Even though your child is ultimately responsible for his/her progress in school, there are certain things you can do as a parent to help. The most important thing you can do to help is to **be involved** in your child's education. That means keeping in touch with the school and the individual teachers. The school maintains contact by issuing progress reports during the middle of each grading period and by issuing grade cards at the end of each quarter. These dates are listed in the yearly calendar and the monthly mailings. **Mark the dates on your calendar so that you can ask to see these indicators of progress at the appropriate time.** Progress reports are mailed to parents and grade cards are distributed to the student. If you have concerns of any kind, do not hesitate to contact your child's teachers.

Other suggestions to help your child with school are:

- \* **Make your child aware of your interest in school.** High school students often try to discourage their parents' interest in their schoolwork. They hope that you will be too busy to keep track of their progress. Let your child know his/her progress is a priority for you by keeping in touch with teachers, attending all open houses and parent/teacher conferences, and asking to see progress reports and grade cards. Of course, you can keep watch by using Parent Connect.
- \* **Retain a copy of your child's schedule for reference.** Keep a copy of your child's schedule handy so that you can call or email and ask for the teachers by name. You can also see a copy of the schedule through Parent Connect.
- \* **Hold periodic discussions with your child about school.** Make it a habit to ask about school. Holding frequent conversations with your child about his/her schoolwork prevents surprises at the end of a grading period.
- \* **Provide a good place for your child to study.** Make sure there is an appropriate place for study in your child's room or elsewhere in the house. Adequate lighting, a flat surface for writing, and availability of materials are all important. Try to monitor the number of distractions that occur when your child studies without being a tyrant about it.
- \* **Monitor activities and jobs.** High school students, though they would never admit it, sometimes need help monitoring things that take away from study time such as TV, telephone calls to and from friends, and computer/video games. Try to monitor these activities without making a war out of the issue. Also monitor the number of hours your child works if he/she has a part-time job. Make it known that school comes first since it is an important part of your child's preparation for the future.
- \* **Make attendance a priority.** Do not allow your child to miss school unless it is for illness, a family emergency, or another serious reason. You will send a message to your child that school is not important if you excuse absences for more frivolous reasons. Don't fall for the line that . . . "Nothing is going on today."
- \* **Offer to help.** Offer to help but don't nag about it. While you may not be able to help with your child's math or science homework, you can easily help by calling out vocabulary words or offering to proofread an essay. Read through the study tips section in **Counselor Corner** and offer suggestions or help you child seek appropriate resources.