

HOMWORK TIPS

Although it may be hard to believe, you can actually help your child enjoy doing homework! When you provide the necessary support and encouragement, most children will rise to the occasion and do their best on their assignments.

ENCOURAGEMENT

Give your child praise for efforts and for completing assignments

AVAILABILITY

Encourage your child to do the work independently, but be available for assistance.

SCHEDULING

Establish a set time to do homework each day. You may want to use a calendar to keep track of assignments and due dates.

SPACE

Provide a space for homework, stocked with necessary supplies such as pencils, pens, paper, dictionaries, a computer and other reference materials.

DISCIPLINE

Help your child focus on homework by removing distractions such as television, radio, telephone, and interruptions from siblings and friends.

MODELING

Consider doing some of your work, such as paying bills or writing letters, during your child's homework time.

SUPPORT

Talk to your child about difficulties with homework. Be willing to talk to your child's teacher to resolve problems in a positive manner.

RHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL

RHAM Middle School
25 RHAM Road
Hebron, CT 06248

Phone: (860) 228-9423

Fax: (860) 228-5316

msattendance@reg8.k12.ct.us

INVOLVEMENT

Familiarize yourself with RHAM Middle School's Homework Policy. Make sure that you and your child understand the teacher's expectations. At the beginning of the year, you may want to ask your child's teacher:

What kinds of assignments will you give?

How often do you give homework?

How much time are the students expected to spend on the assignments?

What type of involvement do you expect from parents?

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF HOMEWORK TO CHILDREN?

Doing homework every day at the same time helps develop responsibility and prepares children for responsibilities they will face as adults.

Homework helps children understand that learning doesn't stop when the school bell rings.

Homework helps children to be academically successful which can lead to feelings of positive self worth and increased levels of self esteem.

Taking pride in homework assignments helps children experience the satisfaction of a job well done.

SOURCES FOR HELP

Big Y Homework helpline 1-800-866-BIGY

www.bigy.com/homework

This service is staffed by certified teachers and provides one-on-one homework assistance for students in kindergarten through grade 12. It is open from 4:00 pm–7:00 PM Monday through Thursday.

Homework Links on the Internet

Each of RHAM's Teams maintain a Teacher Website that is updated regularly with announcements and homework information. To access those sites, go to the RHAM Middle School Home page, click on Student Recourses, click on Teams, then choose the name of your student's team.

24/7 Reference

247ref.org/portal/access5.cfm?lib=Hartford

This is a new service that lets you ask questions and get answers, in real time, right on the internet from live reference staff. It is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You can also email a librarian at reference@hplcl.org

Info Any Time

www.richmondmemoriallib.org/

Info Any Time is a real-time, web-based reference service that provides live librarians to assist people in finding information to support research. Users just click on the Info Any Time logo on the Richmond Memorial Library website, enter their name and email address and wait a few minutes for a librarian to come online. Professional, highly-trained librarians conduct reference interviews via online chat and provide answers and further resources in the form of websites and online database citations.

Publications for Parents

www.ed.gov/parents/landing.jhtml

Read about helping your child with everything from math to learning responsible behavior.

My Virtual Reference Desk

www.refdesk.com

Visit the virtual Reference desk to find help with homework and a variety of other subjects.

A Research Guide for Students

www.aresearchguide.com

The goal of this site is to provide all the necessary tools for students to conduct research and to present their findings.

Homework Spot

www.homeworkspot.com

This is a free homework information portal that features the very best K-12 homework related sites together with engaging editorial in one high-utility, educational spot.

Parents can also help by working with the school. Communication between teachers and parents is very important in solving homework problems. Here are some important things to remember:

Talk with teachers early in the school year. Get acquainted before problems arise and let teachers know that you want to be kept informed.

Contact the teacher as soon as you suspect your child has a homework problem as well as when you think he's having any major problems with his schoolwork.

Request a meeting with the teacher to discuss homework problems. Don't go straight to the principal without giving the teacher a chance to work out the problem with you and your child.

Approach the teacher with a cooperative spirit. Believe that the teacher wants to help you and your child, even if you disagree about something.

While meeting with the teacher, explain what you think is going on. Also, tell the teacher if you don't know what the problem is.

Work out a way to solve or lessen the problem. The strategy will depend on what the problem is, how severe it is, and the needs of your child.

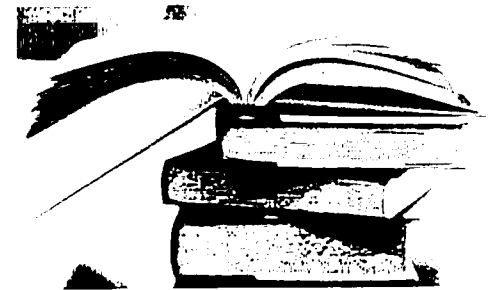
Make sure communication is clear. Listen to the teacher and don't leave until you're sure you understand what's being said. Make sure, too, that the teacher understands what you have to say.

Follow up and make sure that the approach you agreed to is working.

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