

APPLETON VILLAGE SCHOOL

Wildcat News



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FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- 1/23 School Committee Meeting, 5pm
- 1/25 Grade 4 to the Snow Bowl
- 1/31 Basketball Quarterfinals
- 2/5 Basketball Semifinals
- 2/7 Grade 4 to the Snow Bowl
- 2/7 Wildcat Ambassador Meeting, 5:30-6:30
- 2/7 Basketball North Division Championships
- 2/8 Talent Show Auditions, 3:00-4:30
- 2/10 Basketball Busline League Championships, Wiscasset Middle School
- 2/10 Early Dismissal, 11:30
- 2/19-2/23 February Vacation

PLEASE NOTE:

No students are to be dropped off before 8:10, unless prior arrangements have been made.

Wanted: Incoming Pre-K and Kindergarten Students for This Fall

If you have a child who will be **four years old** on or before October 15, 2024, they are eligible to join our **Pre-K class**. Please note, the Pre-K class is limited in size. Reserve your spot.

If you have a child who will be **five years old** on or before October 15, 2024, and is not currently enrolled in our Pre-K, they are eligible to join our **Kindergarten class**.

Please contact the school at 785-4504 to place your child's name on our lists. We need full name, date of birth, parent names, address, phone, email, and any special concerns – health or otherwise.

Registration papers will be mailed out in the spring. Thank you for helping spread the word throughout Appleton.

Health

Dear AVS families,

We are experiencing an increase in sickness in our school's community, especially in the younger grades. I am sending along the school's sickness guidelines for reference. To determine if your child should stay home from school, use these sickness guidelines.

- Fever of 100.4 degrees F or more: Keep your child home for a minimum of 24 hours after their temperature returns to normal (98.6 F), without the use of fever-reducing medication.
- Vomiting: Keep your child home for a minimum of 24 hours since the last episode of vomiting.
- Diarrhea: If your child has had 3 or more episodes of diarrhea in a 24-hour period, keep your child home for 24 hours after the last episode of diarrhea.
- Runny noses (in grades Pre-K - 2): if your child is not able to properly blow their nose and wash their hands, your child should stay home until the runny nose has stopped (unless the runny nose is related to chronic allergies). This will significantly decrease the amount of sickness in your child's classroom.
- Rash: if the cause is unknown, please check with your child's pediatrician before sending your child to school.
- And lastly, please observe your child's demeanor, and ask yourself, "Is my child able to learn?". If the answer isn't a solid "yes", please keep your child home until they are well enough to participate and learn with their peers.

Tips for staying healthy this winter:

- Frequent hand washing is the BEST way to prevent and combat the spread of germs. Wash hands often with soap and water. Hand sanitizer is a great option if soap and water is not available.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or use an elbow or arm if no tissue is available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Do not share drinks, food, or unwashed utensils.
- Get plenty of rest, eat healthy foods, and drink lots of water.
- Avoid people that are sick and stay home when you are sick.
- Disinfect surfaces that are prone to germs.
- Stay up to date on routine vaccinations.

For more information, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/index.html>

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or your child's teacher.

Warm regards,

Nurse Sandy

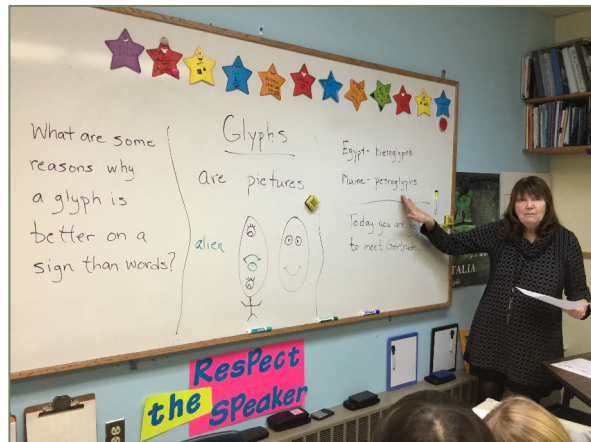
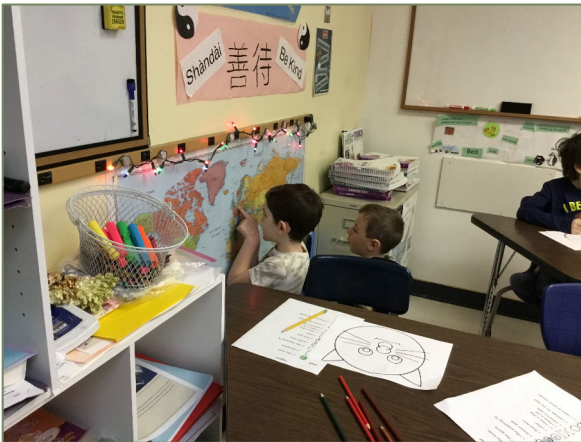
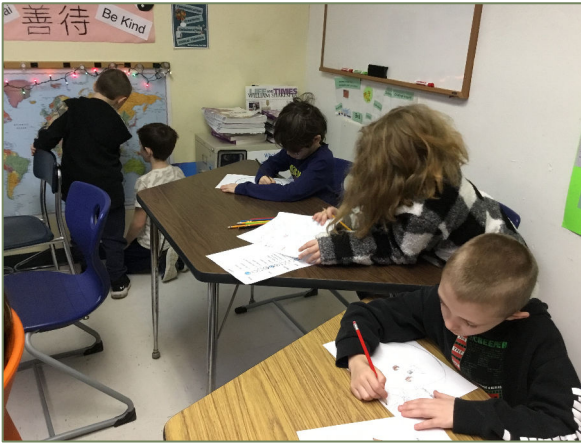
sandy.fuller@fivetowns.net

(207) 785-4504, ext 103



SIMPLY SECOND

Second grade friends enjoyed working with Ms. Scott learning about glyphs. They were excited to learn about the petroglyphs created by the Passamaquoddy in Machias. They were engaged in various creative activities! Please ask our young learners about their experience with glyphs!



What are some reasons why a glyph is better on a sign than words?

Glyphs
are pictures
alien

Egypt- hieroglyphs
Native- petroglyphs
Today you are to meet Constance

Respect the Speaker

Third Graders Learning
"Commutative Property of Multiplication"
with Gloria Estefan's
"Turn the Beat Around"

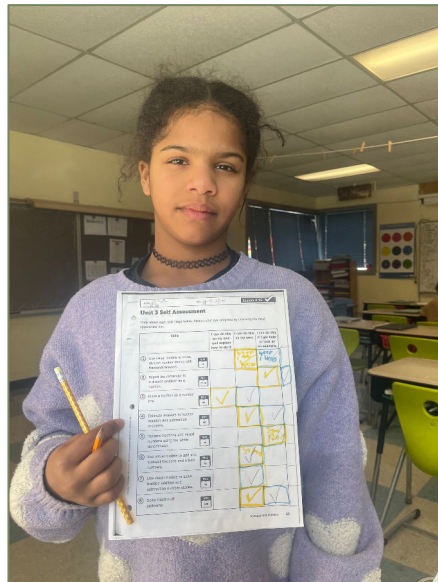
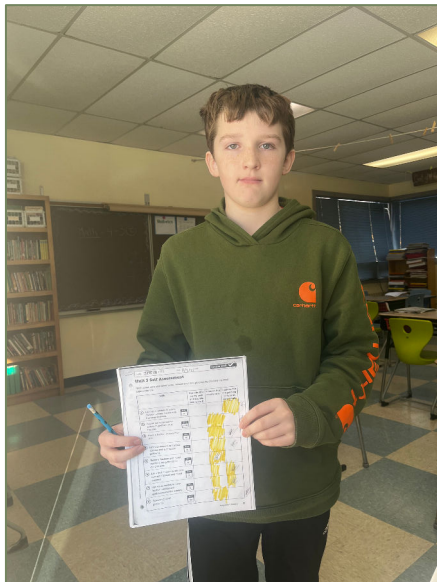
Everyday Math refers to the commutative property as the turn-around rule. We integrate movement into the curriculum, with a whole lot of fun!

I bet some of the middle school still remembers dancing to, "Turn the Beat Around!" 😊



Fifth Grade News ~Mrs. King

This Thursday and Friday students will be watching the movie "Sign of the Beaver" and enjoying popcorn. This story was our read aloud book during the first trimester. It went along with our Colonies Unit. The story takes place in Maine. Ava and Jeremiah did an excellent job of reflecting on their learning and showing growth in math. Way to go!



Middle School News

Eighth Grade Explores Career Options

In connection with a free College and Career Planning program, myOptions Encourage, students in the 8th grade discussed future planning opportunities. While completing a survey about career options and possibilities, students were able to explore questions of whether they would be interested in Community College, Military paths, or internships. They thought about their preferences on size and how close they wanted to be to home. They discussed social opportunities and extracurriculars, along with other topics. Students and families in the 8th grade will receive a customized college match and scholarship report for free based on their interests. Students and families may even hear about programming and financial aid from educational facilities. Either way, students have taken their first step in considering where their educational choices might lead them after high school.

Literary Connections:

6th Grade:

Students in the 6th grade are working on creating their own unique character...will it be a Supervillain, or a Superhero is the only question. Using tinfoil, masking tape, and tissue paper, students began the brainstorming process for their literary character with an arts-based project. Discussions revolved around physical characteristics, personality quirks, likes and dislikes, as well as favorite types of food. Soon, students will be taking their character to the next level as they move from a character focus to learning about plot development and conflict. Based on the conversations, these stories will be something to look forward to reading. Reading: Students are reading choice novels, leading to an interactive book report.

7th Grade:

Students in 7th grade have been reading various cultural myths as they research elements that each myth or legend has in common. The discussion of each story has allowed students to see the similarities between various cultures, as well as the finicky nature of many of the deities regarding their interactions with mortals. These skills will come into play as we move forward with writing unique myths, putting into practice their understanding of conflict, setting, plot development, and sequencing.

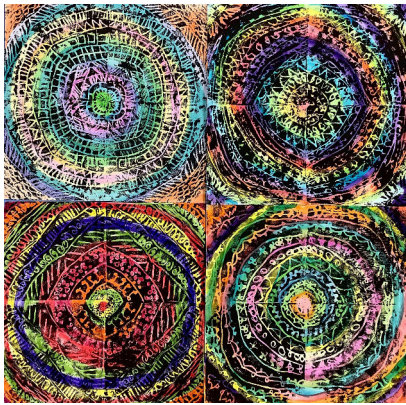
Reading: Students are reading choice novels, leading to an interactive book report.

8th Grade:

Students in the 8th grade are exploring the classic short story, *The Most Dangerous Game* by Richard Connell. Within this story, students will be exploring the importance of literary elements like figurative language, descriptive details, and the importance of setting. Students will be using text evidence and details from the reading to develop a visual representation of Ship Trap Island.



Winter in the Art Room



5th Grade artists used the repetitive nature of printmaking to design and create artwork that featured concentric circles and rotational symmetry. Using watercolors, a ruler and a compass, they created bullseye patterns for the background. They then created symmetrical prints by tracing their designs using a light box, and printing four times rotating around a center point.

Pre-K artists have been exploring color-mixing using tempera paint. They created these abstract artworks by mixing blue and yellow, blue and red, and red and yellow. They also created pastel colors using white.



8th grade artist Marian will have her artwork hung in a show as part of Youth Art Month, organized by the Portland Museum of Art and the Maine Art Education Association. For information about the show visit portlandmuseum.org/youthartmonth

Artworks on this page created by: Lucy, Abigail, Amelia, Ava, Harlyn, Jaxson, Isabella, Wyatt and Marian.

Wildcat Basketball

The regular season is now complete. The boys ended with a record of 5 wins and 7 losses, putting them in 4th place. The girls ended with a record of 5 wins and 5 losses putting them in 3rd place. Playoffs begin next week! Go Wildcats!



OPEN CALL

GOT TALENT?

AUDITION!

OPEN TO ALL
MUSICIANS, SINGERS, DANCERS,
RAPPERS, ACTORS, COMEDIANS,
MAGICIANS, ETC.

WHERE?
AVS Gym (Subject to change)

WHEN?
Thursday, February 8th
3:00-4:30

Made with PosterMyWall.com



Talent Show

We are having a talent show! All students at AVS are invited to perform. We will have auditions in February and a performance on **Friday, May 10th**. All practices will be on **Thursdays** after school.

- If you don't know what to audition, but still want to join in, that's just fine! Let us know and we will help you find the perfect act to be in.
- Please make your act around 3 minutes. If you are struggling to make your act 3 minutes don't worry, we will help you with that during our practices.
- We can't wait to see what creative acts you decide to audition with! However, do remember, it is an audition and we may make some changes to your act for our show.
- All students who audition will get to be in the show, no matter what!

****Important: If your student is unable to make practice/auditions for any reason please let us know ahead of time. Contact us at Sharon.Bustos@fivetowns.net or ali.eaton1018@gmail.com**

****Attendance at the dress rehearsal and show are mandatory****



Parents are welcome to help too! Let us know if you would like to volunteer your time!

Auditions
Thursday, February 8th, 3:00-4:30

Make-up Auditions
(for students who are sick or away on audition day.)
Thursday, February 15th, 3:00-4:00

Rehearsals
Starting February 29th - ongoing until the performance
Thursdays 3:00-4:30

-Possible Monday or Tuesday practices for certain selected small group acts TBA.

Dress Rehearsal - May 9th, 3-4:30

Performance Date
Friday, May 10th, 6:00 PM

Student name _____

Parent Name _____ Parent Phone _____

Parent Email _____

I would like to volunteer

Adult(s) who will be picking up the student

Dates that the student will miss rehearsal



AVS 8th Grade Class
calling out for

PENNY Competition

JANUARY 22 - FEBRUARY 6


PARTICIPATION OPEN TO GRADES PK-8

RULES

Each class (PK-8) has their own jug for collecting money.
Gain points by adding pennies and bills to your class jug.
Lower other classroom totals by adding silver coins to their jugs.

QUARTER-SUBTRACT	NICKEL-SUBTRACT	DIME-SUBTRACT
25 POINTS	5 POINTS	10 POINTS

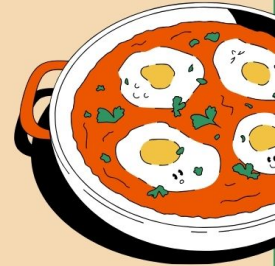
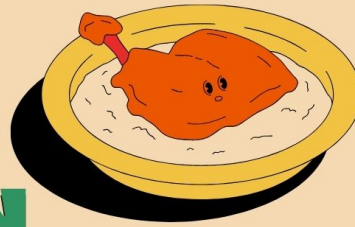
The class with the MOST points WINS!
A \$25 Amazon gift card for their classroom and an extra recess
hosted by the 8th grade class.



All proceeds will benefit the AVS 8th grade class.

YOU ARE INVITED TO

APPLETON LIBRARY'S ANNUAL



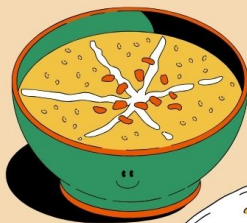
SOUPER SUPPER & CAKE AUCTION WITH ROSEY GERRY

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27 5-7PM
HELD AT THE APPLETON VILLAGE SCHOOL



SUPPER PRICES:

ADULTS (13 & UP) : \$10
CHILDREN (12 & UNDER) : \$5
FAMILY CAP: \$25



ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE APPLETON LIBRARY

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:
JESS PEARSON AT: (207) 785-5656
OR EMAIL:
APPLETONLIBRARYME@GMAIL.COM

FIVE TOWN FOOTBALL WINTER FLAG SESSION

**ANNOUNCING OUR ANNUAL
WINTER FLAG FOOTBALL !!**

WHERE: THE PITCH IN WARREN

WHEN: MONDAYS 5-6PM X 6 WEEKS

FEBRUARY 26-APRIL 1, 2024

WHO: CURRENT 3rd-8th GRADERS

HOW: REGISTER AT FIVETOWNFOOTBALL.COM





We want YOU!

To join the defending 2X
Regional Championship
CRMS Wrestling Team!



Wrestling is open to all students grades 5-8 at in the Fivetowns area (including HAL schools!). The season is between basketball and spring sports and competitions don't start until mid-February, so you still have plenty of time to ski as well!

Wrestling is a safe sport (fewer serious injuries per participant than soccer or basketball) that kids of all shapes and sizes can be successful in. Please come and give it a try!

Our first practice will be on Tuesday, January 16th at the High School 6:15 to 7:30. We will practice at the High School Tuesday and Thursday at these times through February 9. Practices will then be five days a week in the gym at CRMS Mon-Fri 4:00 to 5:30. The season ends on March 23rd with the league championship meet.

Sign up at: https://crms.fivetowns.net/athletics/sports_enrollment

Contact: Aaron Henderson aaron.henderson@fivetowns.net (207) 522-5252



MAINE



SNAP-Ed
Healthy Eating on a Budget

10 Tips for Adults

DATES: Tuesdays, March 19 - April 9

TIME: 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Happy Wanderers Guided Hikes

DATE: Thursday, February 1

COST: FREE

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

Join Maine SNAP-Ed Nutrition Educators from Waldo County for this 4-week class that will focus on the following themes: healthy eating; increasing consumption of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and lean protein; food resource management; and providing strategies for participants to stretch their food dollars. Taste tests and giveaways will be provided at each class!

LOCATION:

Tanglewood, Lincolnville

COST: Free

REGISTER BY: Tuesday, March 12 at penbayandwaldo.coursestorm.com or 301-3950

Register online at

penbayandwaldo.coursestorm.com or call 301-3950

This institute is an equal opportunity and nondiscrimination program. SNAP, which is administered by the Office for Family Independence (OFI) at the Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and implemented statewide by the University of New England (UNE) through contracts with local community organizations. Maine SNAP-Ed educates families experiencing low income on low-cost healthy eating and active lifestyles. Contact mainesnap-ed@une.edu or 207-221-4560 for more information.

trailheads throughout Knox and Waldo counties on the first Thursday of each month.





Happy Wanderers Guided Hikes: Full Moon Hike

Join the Community Health team partnering with Coastal Mountains Land Trust to get outdoors and stay active with guided hikes this year. This hike is 2 miles and the level is moderate. All levels are welcome; however, please leave pets at home. This group also meets at trailheads throughout Knox and Waldo counties on the first Thursday of each month.

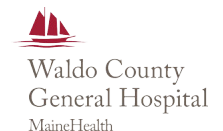
DATE: Saturday, February 24

TIME: 5:30 p.m.

**LOCATION:
Beech Hill, Rockport**

COST: Free

Register online at
penbaywaldo.coursestorm.com or call 301-3950



Helping Children Learn®

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School
Appleton Village School



January 2024

Reinforce learning and academic skills in six simple ways at home

Incorporating learning into your child's time at home is one of the most important ways you can support success in school. Here are six easy ways:

- 1. Expose your child** to new things. Every meaningful experience your child has—from observing a construction site to visiting a museum—has an impact on learning. On your next outing together, discuss how some of the things you are seeing relate to what your child is learning in school.
- 2. Have conversations** about what your child is doing in classes. Show enthusiasm and interest. Find out what your child thinks about school.
- 3. Ask your child to teach you.** Have your child show you how to solve that math problem on today's worksheet, or tell you about a historic event the class is learning about.
- 4. Talk together about all sorts of topics.** Really listen to what your child says, and ask follow-up questions to keep the conversation going.
- 5. Encourage deeper thinking.** Discuss similarities and differences between things. Ask your child to give reasons for opinions.
- 6. Put your child's abilities into action.** Let your elementary schooler use knowledge and skills to help you around the house. Ask for your child's advice when you are making a decision or solving a problem.



Addition facts can be child's play

Memorizing addition facts frees up brainpower so your child can focus on solving multi-step problems and word problems efficiently. To strengthen your elementary schooler's addition fluency in fun ways:

- **Play board games** with two dice. At first, your child may need to count every dot on each die. With practice, your child will immediately recognize the number of dots on one die (say, 3), then count the dots on the second die (say, 5) on from 3 ("4, 5, 6, 7, 8") to find the total number of spaces to move. Soon, your child will simply recall that $3 + 5 = 8$.
- **Build with blocks** to practice making 10. Help your child learn number combinations that equal 10 by building two-color block towers (1 blue block + 9 red blocks = 10, 2 blue + 8 red = 10, etc.). Later, your child can use this knowledge to learn "neighboring facts." (" $5 + 5 = 10$. So $5 + 4$ must equal 9, since 4 is one less than 5 and 9 is 1 less than 10.")

Breakfast is a smart start

Studies show that eating breakfast improves students' focus, alertness, comprehension and memory. Whether your child eats it at home or at school, breakfast provides essential fuel for learning. If time is an issue, offer grab-and-go options like an apple and a piece of cheese.



Why handwriting matters

Writing by hand helps children learn reading skills faster than typing on a keyboard. Seeing and feeling the letter shapes reinforces letter knowledge. To boost handwriting skills:



- **Make sure your child's feet** rest on the floor. Place a box under them if necessary. This anchor makes writing easier.
- **Help your child** find the right amount of pressure. Pushing too hard tires out hand muscles. Experiment with different tools, like gel pens that glide smoothly.
- **Offer chances to write.** Together, write letters to relatives. Dictate your grocery list for your child to write down.

Sources: R. Wiley and B. Rapp, "Handwriting beats typing and watching videos for learning to read," Johns Hopkins University; L. Brukner, "Tips to help students with their handwriting," Edutopia.

Encourage organization

Elementary schoolers are just developing the organizational skills they need to think ahead. Help your child learn to:

- **Use a calendar** to track assignments, test dates and activities.
- **Break big projects down** into parts to complete over several days.
- **Tidy up after study time** so supplies will be easy to find when next needed.

Helping Children Learn[®]

Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School

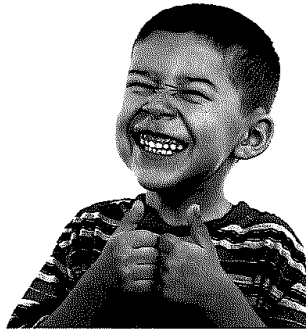


January 2024

Q&A My child's clowning is a serious issue. What can I do?

Q: My first grader is a real class clown. The teacher says this behavior is disruptive. At home, my child also uses laughs to get out of doing things. But how am I supposed to impose discipline when I am laughing myself?

A: Children often make jokes and behave like clowns to gain status with peers—and it works. Or they are rebelling against adults or rules, but in such a way that adults react to the humor instead of the misbehavior.



To put an end to your child's antics, change your response:

- **Don't use labels** like "the class clown" or talk about how funny your child is to others—it will only reinforce the silliness.
- **Ignore your child's efforts at humor** when they are inappropriate. Leave the room if you can't avoid laughing. Clowns need an audience in order to continue their performance.
- **Establish rules and consequences in advance**, and apply them consistently. If your child is clowning to avoid a responsibility, enforce the consequence for shirking. If your child is trying to manipulate you into a *yes* when your answer is *no*, stick to your *no*.
- **Talk with your child** about better ways to make friends. Smiling and showing interest in others is a great way to start.

Parent Quiz Are you teaching your child new words?

Communication skills improve when your child can use just the right word to express an idea. Are you helping your child build a large vocabulary that supports academic success? Answer *yes* or *no* to the questions below:

1. **Do you discuss** unfamiliar words and their meanings when you and your child read together?
2. **Do you introduce** new words for familiar ideas? "Let's use big blocks at the bottom so the tower will be *sturdy* and won't fall down."
3. **Do you choose** word games often when playing games as a family?
4. **Do you help** your child make and add to a personal dictionary of new words?
5. **Do you post** a new word each day that family members try to use in conversation?

How well are you doing?

More *yes* answers mean you are adding to your child's word power. For each *no*, try that idea.

"A child needs a forest of words to wander through, a sea of words to splash in."
—Frank Bruni

Keep on reading aloud

No matter how old students are or how well they can read to themselves, family read-aloud times are effective and fun ways to build reading skills. For the best results:

- **Choose a regular time.** Reading aloud with your child daily demonstrates that reading is too important to miss.
- **Read books you like.** Your enjoyment can increase your child's enjoyment.
- **Emphasize the first line** to grab your child's attention.
- **Use distinct voices** and expressions for each character to bring them alive.
- **Stop reading** for the day at a point where your child is eager to hear what happens next.

Offer reasons to persevere

Learning isn't always easy, which is why it's so important for students to develop persistence. To encourage your child to persist:

- **Offer reminders** of times persistence has helped your child master a skill.
- **Offer encouragement.** Say things like, "You are making progress. Keep at it, you'll get it."
- **Discuss the rewards.** It feels great to be able to go into a test with confidence, knowing you've studied hard. Even better, it feels great to learn and get smarter!

Unlock cooperation secrets

Give your student two keys to working well with others in the classroom:



1. **Controlling others** is impossible, but your child *can* control personal actions and reactions.
2. **Responsibilities** are like promises. They are things that must be done, especially when others are counting on your child.

Helping Children Learn[®]

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Helping Students Learn[®]

Tips Families Can Use to Help Students Do Better in School
 Appleton Village School



MIDDLE SCHOOL

January 2024

Refocus attention on respect for a positive effect on learning

By the middle of the school year, students are usually feeling more comfortable and relaxed in their classes. That's great! Unfortunately, however, a "relaxed" attitude toward respectful behavior often goes along with this.

In a class of many people, each student's actions affect the others. It's difficult for teachers to create a productive learning environment in the absence of respect.

Talk with your child about the importance of being respectful to others in school. Expect your student to:

- **Practice self-respect.** Explain that this means acting in ways that make your child feel proud of doing what's right.
- **Be on time.** Promptness shows respect for other people's time.
- **Listen and speak courteously.** This means hearing others out, and using civil language to express ideas and opinions.
- **Use polite body language.** Raising hands, sitting properly on furniture, and smiling, nodding and making eye-contact with others shows respect.
- **Take learning seriously.** Your child should pay attention in class and participate.
- **Understand that it is possible** to learn something from almost everyone—even while disagreeing with them.



Foster traits that boost school success

Academic skills aren't the only things that lead to achievement in school. Students who develop certain personal characteristics and apply them to their studies do better than those who don't. Encourage your child to be:

- **Curious.** Nothing drives learning like wanting to know things. To stoke curiosity, expose your middle schooler to new ideas and experiences.
- **Confident.** Show your love, and make it clear you believe your child is capable of working hard, learning and succeeding.
- **Organized.** Give your child folders and calendars to help keep track of schoolwork and time. Schedule weekly time for organizing together.
- **Persistent.** When successful students face learning challenges, they keep trying. They look for different approaches.
- **Resilient.** Setbacks happen. Teach your child to take responsibility for actions, and to create a plan for improvement.

Discuss rewards of reading

If your child doesn't read for pleasure often, explain the advantages. Reading for fun is a great way for your middle schooler to:

- **Visit** exciting places.
- **Become** an expert in an area of interest.
- **Have** a laugh.
- **Encounter** people with similar characteristics, interests, ideas and problems.



Consistency gets results

Discipline works best when it is consistent. So while you may adapt some rules as your child grows, maintain a consistent approach. Keep these guidelines in mind:

- **Wait until you are calm.** Regain control of your emotions before addressing misbehavior with your child. If your child is upset, help calm things down before imposing a consequence.
- **Listen to your child.** Don't let your middle schooler talk you out of imposing a consequence. But hear your child out even as you enforce the rule.
- **Hold firm** in non-negotiable areas, such as rules about safety and substance use.

Attendance always counts

Some families think that poor attendance doesn't matter if their child earns good grades. This isn't true! Absent students miss activities and demonstrations that make classes interesting. They fall behind and have increasing difficulty catching up. Some lose interest in school altogether. Making attendance a priority is a critical way to ensure that your child continues on the path to academic achievement.



Helping Students Learn

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Tips Families Can Use to Help Students Do Better in School

January 2024

Q&A How can I prevent problems if my child chooses wrong?

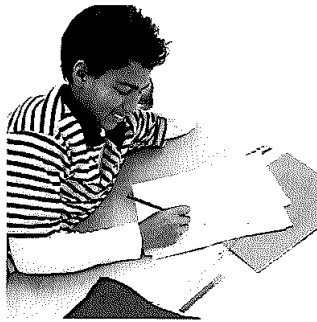
Q: How can families help middle schoolers learn to make good choices without letting them make bad ones? What should I do?

A: Learning to make good decisions—and learning lessons from the poor ones, is part of growing up. When you allow your child make a poor choice, you create a situation your child can learn from.

Balance is the key. There are areas when you must make the decisions. These include things like safety, school attendance and drug and alcohol use. But in other areas, you can set boundaries and let your child make choices within them.

Here are three:

- 1. Schoolwork.** Doing assignments is non-negotiable. But you can let your child decide how to do them—sprawled on the floor, sitting at a table, before dinner, after dinner, etc. Your middle schooler's grades will reveal whether the decisions are working, or need to be reconsidered.
- 2. Sleep.** If you've insisted on the same bedtime and wake time for years, ask what times your child thinks are reasonable. If they allow your middle schooler to get at least nine hours of sleep every 24 hours, try it.
- 3. Bedroom space.** Your child may choose to be OK with a messy room. As long as it is sanitary, don't argue. If your child can't find a needed item when it's time to leave for school, experiencing the consequences may be the lesson your student needs to make a better choice next time.



Parent Quiz Do you encourage working with teachers?

Your child may not like every teacher. That's normal. But it is important for students to learn to work productively with all teachers. Are you helping your child establish effective working relationships? Answer *yes* or *no* below:

- 1. Do you make** it your child's responsibility to be polite to teachers?
- 2. Do you remind** your child that it isn't necessary to like a teacher in order to learn in that class?
- 3. Do you help** identify likely causes if your student is having an issue in a class?
- 4. Do you urge** your child to talk to teachers and work with them to resolve issues?
- 5. Do you contact** teachers if your child is unable to work

through an issue with them and ask for a parent-teacher-student conference?

How well are you doing?

More yes answers mean you are helping your student interact with teachers in positive ways. For each no, try that idea.

"I'm not telling you it's going to be easy. I'm telling you it's going to be worth it."
—Art Williams

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Which math option would your child rather have?

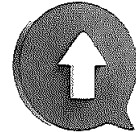
Boost your child's interest in math with a game that makes it personal. Ask your middle schooler to choose between two options, and justify the choice with math. For example, would your student rather:

- **Have 23 hundred-dollar bills**, 48 ten-dollar bills and 9 one-dollar bills, or 26 hundreds, 17 tens and 22 ones?
- **Have 500 pounds** of pennies or 40 pounds of quarters? (Help your child check the coins' weights at www.usmint.gov/learn/coin-and-medal-programs/coin-specifications).

Source: J. Stevens, Would You Rather Math.

Jump-start motivation by recognizing progress

It may not thrill you if your child brings home a low C on a history quiz. But if the previous quiz grade was a D, your child is making progress. Recognizing the improvement can motivate your student to keep up the momentum. "You brought your grade up. You have what it takes!" Avoid adding a negative spin—this isn't the time to say that your child still has a long way to go.



Talk about accountability

Being talented or smart only goes so far. For success in school and beyond, students must also be able to be counted on. Explain to your child that *accountability* involves:

- **Living up to commitments.** Your child should turn work in on time and do a fair share on group projects.
- **Working cheerfully**, rather than being so unpleasant about it that no one will want to work with your child again.
- **Correcting errors** and apologizing if your student has let someone down.

Helping Students Learn®

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 P.O. Box 7474, Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7474
 1-800-756-5525 • www.parent-institute.com

