

TIPS FOR PARENTS

Students need YOU be interested and involved in their academic progress. Your children must, however, be responsible for their own grades, attendance, and behavior.

Be Interested

- Make sure that your child knows that his/her academic progress is important to you.
- Attend curriculum night and parent conferences.
- Know when each reporting period ends, and make sure that you see all progress reports and report cards as soon as they come out.
- If you do not see a progress report or report card, immediately call the school and request a copy. *Do not just assume that someone will call you if there's a problem. CALL ANYTIME!!!*

Discuss Classes and Set Goals

- Sit down with your son or daughter at the beginning of each grading period and help him/her set realistic academic goals for the term. (i.e. Melissa and her guardians decided that she should be able to earn A's in Math, Social Studies, English, PE and Art. Since Melissa finds French and Science more difficult, they decided that they'd be happy with B's in these two subjects).
- Throughout the term, recognize effort and improvement. At the end of a term, you can offer "rewards" if goals are met and/or "consequences" if they're not.
- Rewards are particularly good when you want to encourage a change in attendance, effort, or behavior.
- Consequences should be logical whenever possible. (i.e. a logical consequence for routinely being late to school is an earlier curfew. Never take away a positive activity (school plays, music lessons, scouting, etc. as a consequence).
- Be familiar with the document entitled Improving Academic Results at Menihek High School

Be Available to Help

- Be available to help with homework, but don't give more help than is wanted. Keep in mind that it is your child's responsibility to be organized, to get homework done, and to prepare for tests.

Listen

- Talk to your child about what's happening in school and be a good listener.

Encourage School Involvement

- Students who are involved in school-related activities enjoy school more and they have greater academic success. Encourage your child to be involved in one or more activities at school.

Monitor Activities and Jobs

- Make sure that your child is not spending too much time watching TV, playing computer games, or talking on the phone.
- Also, make sure that your child is not working too many hours or working too late at a part time job.

Important "Don'ts"

- Don't nag about school or grades. Your child will tune you out.
- Don't allow your child to miss school unless he/she is truly ill. You will send a message that school isn't important.
- Don't criticize a teacher in front of your child. Your child will only lose respect for that teacher.
- Don't make your child's failures (or successes) your own. Your child may see getting poor grades as a way to rebel.
- Don't have expectations that are unrealistic. If your child knows that your expectations cannot be met, he/she may not even try.

Work With Your School

Teachers, the guidance counsellor, and the administration are here to help your child get the best education possible. A health problem, death in the family, or divorce can affect your child's attitude and/or performance in school. If such a circumstance should arise, contact the principal or guidance counsellor and explain the situation.

If you have a concern that relates to a specific teacher or class, call the teacher. For other questions and concerns, call the main office at 944-7731. Be sure to express any concerns that you have in a constructive, respectful manner.