The Basics on High School grades… How to help your student succeed in school

Every family has its own idea of what good grades are. Some families require a C, some insist on an A, some are only unhappy with an F, and sometimes it depends on the subject matter. A teacher’s job is to present material, maintain a standard of achievement, and to let you know how well your child measured up to that standard. This is done through grades. Teacher’s don’t “GIVE” grades, they record student progress.

If your child is not getting the grade you hope for, he/she can improve the grade by studying more. This is the fastest and only way to solve the problem. Insisting that a student study more is the parent’s responsibility.

Here are some ways for a student to study more. If you are unhappy with a grade, your child, although maybe doing some, is not doing ALL of these things. She/he may know these methods but might forget to employ all of them:

1. Put in more study time at home.

2. Study correctly at home. For example:

Concentrate.

Make and use flashcards (correctly)

No music or TV

No multi-tasking

Learn it; do not only put in time

Set a reasonable, attainable goal and reach it before finishing

Study every school night

Do not goof off

3. Come to class as early as possible every day.

4. Begin studying right away upon entering the class.

5. Write down what is said in class – listening is not always enough.

6. Discuss and practice the material with your study partner as much as possible.

7. Avoid all socializing in class, i.e., don’t talk or respond to others unless it is class work.

8. Concentrate on everything the teacher says.

9. If something is not clear, ask the teacher.

10. Try to come up with examples of what is being taught.

11. Study flash cards during class breaks.

12. Do not wait for class to be over, you need to participate.

13. After class, clear up any questions with the teacher you didn’t ask during class.

14. Do quality, neat work on all assignments. Always do a little more than what is necessary.

15. Think about the material outside of class.

16. Use the Teacher’s website online resources (the library has many resources that are subscription only and available to our students) There are great teaching You Tubes.

17. Decide to enjoy the subject. Negative thinking generates negative results.

18. Have homework schedule posted at home (where parents can see it) and in your binder, maybe in your book also. The homework schedule for class is posted on the Teacher’s website so that extra copies can be run off as needed.

You do not need to ask the teacher which one of these your child should do; insist on all of them.

Any student who does the above will improve his/her learning and, if there is enough time, will bring up her/his grade. Please allow at least a month of following all of these suggestions to see a change. If there is no change in grades, it means your child is not applying these methods successfully. Remember, a month of becoming a hardworking student at the end of a semester or year will not be as productive as becoming a hardworking student at the beginning.

PARENT CONFERENCES

The topic of most conversations with a teacher is poor grades. Before requesting a teacher conference, please ask yourself “If my child were getting an A, would I still need a conference?” Have I posted the homework schedule on the refrigerator and checked to see if homework is finished the night before class? Have I quizzed my child using what’s on the workbook page and vocabulary to help them prepare for quizzes and tests? If the answer is “No,” please read and implement the study techniques listed above. If the answer is “Yes,” you may want to arrange an SST with your student’s counselor.

Every year many teachers have the following situation arise with a student asking "What can I do to raise my grade?" at the last minute and someone created a YouTube video to help kids maybe catch themselves before it's too late. It’s linked on the homepage of my website.