

## How can Parents Support Their Children at Home with their Schoolwork?

Your Grade 8 child now has several teachers and courses to manage with different tasks and deadlines. Here are a few strategies for you and your child...

### Agenda Book

Make sure your child is using their agenda book, I-pod, or cell phone to organize themselves. If you are not sure what strategies they are using in grade 8, ask them to show you how they stay organized from day-to-day. If you see that they are struggling perhaps you could make some suggestions as to how they can make it easier for themselves.

Your child should be **writing down assignments including page numbers and due dates**. Since we are on a day 1 day 2 schedule they can write in what is due on the day that it is due as a reminder.

### Busy Afterschool Schedule?

Sometimes having a **weekly calendar** that all family members can write on may be helpful. Some kids **respond well to visualizing** what is due or appointments or events that are happening in the coming week. It might help them manage their weekly afterschool time better too! Having a **dedicated time and space for homework** can be helpful for kids to have positive homework experiences.

### Bottomless Backpack?

Your child has 4 classes a day and has to move between classes. Sometimes paper can get lost in the shuffle, whether it be in the bottom of their locker or backpack, things can and do get misplaced. Consider a **weekly back pack clean out** to deal with misplaced handouts which can often contain important information. Handouts should be **placed in your child's binder(s) in chronological order**. Encourage your child to put the **date** on any handout or notes taken in class to maintain the proper sequence.

### I Don't Have Any Homework. I Finished it All at School!

This may be true now and again. However, **most evenings students will have some sort of homework**. Whether it is assigned textbook work, assigned pages in a workbook, reading, or projects to work on, there is always a little something that can and should be done.

Each teacher has a **course outline** that students are given at the beginning of the school year. Read it over with your child. It will have valuable information on it. **The teacher may have his/her own webpage, some textbooks come with a supplementary workbook that can be purchased, etc.**

### I Don't Know How to Do This Work!

Sometimes a frustrated kid can throw his/her hand up in the air because they just don't get it. Sometimes that can be fatigue or frustration doing all the talking. Making sure your child is **well rested, getting lots of sleep, and exercise** will help keep frustrations down to a minimum

If your child is unsure and doesn't have the work complete here are some options: try to help them by breaking it down with them and encourage your child to go **see the teacher in tutorial** the next morning. Teachers are here to help and may not be aware that your child is struggling with a concept. **Contacting the teacher via email can really help clarify things for your child, and you!**

### Contact Me!

If your child is still struggling at school despite trying to keep on top of their work, please contact their grade counsellor to discuss some other strategies that may help. We are fortunate to have a very caring and dedicated staff here at PG who are always willing to help.