

Counselor's Corner- November 2017

Many parents are very involved in their child's school career in the elementary grades, but stay away once their child approaches the middle school years. It has been proven that parent involvement produces higher grades and test scores, better attendance, more homework completion, and more positive attitudes toward school.

If you don't feel that you have the time to be a school volunteer, consider what Joyce Epstein of Johns Hopkins University says. Her theory is that a school volunteer is "anybody, anytime, anyplace, who supports school goals and children's learning." Consider yourself a volunteer if you:

- Encourage your child to read.
- Set aside a regular time and place for homework. Enforce this by turning off the television, cell phones, and other distractions.
- Let your child know that effort is more important than intelligence.
- Visit the library regularly or find other ways to read with your child.
- Keep close track of how well your child is doing in school. It will help you to be aware if grades start to decline and also be aware of what your child is studying.

Talk about school at home. Instead of asking your child what they did in school today, which may produce a "nothing" answer, try asking more specific questions.

- What was the most important thing you learned today?

- What new assignments did you get today?
- What do you think your English teacher will ask you on your next test?

Share information about your day. Sometimes hearing about mom or dad's day may help your child open up about theirs as well.

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Source: Information from the Parent Institute