



Pocono Mountain West High School

Quarterly Newsletter - November 2019

Helping your child succeed at West High School

While all parents want their children to succeed in school, many parents need to understand the role they assume in monitoring and guiding their children's schooling is vital to their academic success. While parents of high schoolers feel that this is the time for their children to be more independent, research has shown that this is a critical point in the academic success of students. High school parents cannot afford to take a laid-back approach to their children's education and schools cannot be the only place of learning. Parents need to encourage learning at home. Here are some tips and suggestions for parents to encourage learning at home adapted from kidshealth.org.

1. Attend Back-to-School Night and Parent-Teacher Conferences

Attending your school's open house or back-to-school night is a great way to get to know your teen's teachers and their expectations. A parent-teacher conference is an ideal opportunity to provide valuable insight in how to motivate your child to become an active learner, no one knows your child better than you do.

2. Support Homework Expectations

During the high school years, homework gets more intense and grades become critical for college plans. Parents need to create a comfortable environment for their children to complete homework that is free of distractions such as cell phones, loud music and the television. Encourage students to attend tutoring for extra help.

3. Instill Organizational Skills

Parents and guardians can help teens keep assignments and class information together in binders, notebooks, or folders that organized by subject. Creating a calendar will help teens recognize upcoming deadlines and plan their time accordingly. Multitasking is a time waster when it comes to studying and homework.

4. Offer Help With Studying

You can help your teen review materials and study with several techniques, like simple questioning, or asking to quiz your student, focusing on any troubling ideas.

5. Know the Expectations of Behavior in the Students Code of Conduct

It is important for your teens to know the expectations at school and that you will support the school's consequences when expectations are unmet. It is easiest for students when school expectations match the ones at home, so they see both environments as safe and caring places that work together as a team.

6. Take Attendance Seriously

Teens should take a sick day if they have a fever, are nauseated, vomiting, or have diarrhea. Otherwise, it is important that they arrive at school on time every day, because having to catch up with class work, projects, tests, and homework can be stressful and interfere with learning.

7. Make Time to Talk About School

Make efforts to talk with your teen every day, so he or she knows that what goes on at school is important to you. When teens know their parents are interested in their academic lives, they will take school seriously as well.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Please call for
available times:

570-839-7121

x 81460 or x 81461

11/14 – 5:30pm-8:30pm

11/15 - 8:00am-2:30pm

Tutoring

(All content areas)

Students sign-up in the
main office during lunch
periods.

Tues/Wed/Thurs

2:45pm until 5:30pm

See Page 2 for
Important
Attendance
Facts





School Attendance - Important Information

Parents have three days to turn in notes for all absences. Any note turned in late will be counted as unlawful. Written notes can be sent to school with your child and given to their teacher. Notes can also be emailed to the attendance secretary at whsattendance@pmsd.org.

Truant – By law, after three unlawful/unexcused absences, a student is considered to be “truant”.

Habitually Truant – By law, after six unlawful/unexcused absences, a student is considered to be “habitually truant.”

Frequently Asked Questions:

- **At what time does school start?** – 7:19 a.m.
- **At what time does school end?** – 2:19 p.m.
- **What is considered to be an excused absence?**
 - Illness
 - Medical, dental or other health care appointment (Remember to get an excuse from the Dr. Office.)
- **What is considered an unexcused absence?**
 - Oversleeping and/or missing the bus
 - Failure to turn in an excuse **within three days**
 - Missing school in excess of 18 days without a doctor’s excuse
 - Taking an educational trip with out following the educational trip guidelines.

**** Consistent school attendance is vital to school success. ****

Each day counts!!

Additional information about the district Attendance Policy
can be found on our website.

