



AIG Focus

Monthly Goal: I use outstanding effort to showcase my best work.

Parenting Strategies to Motivate Underachieving Gifted Students

The underachievement of capable children is an area of concern for many parents and educators. Students tend to be motivated when they find a task meaningful, believe that they have the skills to do it, and find their efforts supported by those around them.

Many gifted students do not view their school experience as meaningful. Generally, a student views tasks as meaningful if they gratify a personal interest, are tied to the child's identity, have an immediate use, or will clearly be useful in the future.

Motivated students believe that they have the skills to do well in school. It is imperative also that children recognize their own role in developing these skills. Students who believe that their abilities are not innate but have been developed are more likely to attempt challenging tasks. Gifted students are at risk for believing that their abilities are simply given, particularly if others in their lives have not discussed their giftedness with them.

It's important for parents to share their

positive work experiences as well as how they persist in spite of the inevitable negative aspects of the work world. Individuals who struggle but succeed build confidence in themselves; they also offer others a better lesson in how success is usually won than those who simply glide to it.

Students must expect to succeed and know that those around them will support their work. They must learn to trust that their efforts, even if momentarily thwarted, will pay off in the end.

There is no silver bullet to motivate gifted children; however, parents can use the strategies mentioned in this article to begin to create an environment in which their children feel confident about themselves and value achievement.

To check out all the strategies in this article, go to: "[Parenting Strategies to Motivate Underachieving Gifted Students](#)" from *Gifted Today: A Duke Tip Blog for Parents and Teachers*.

Director's Discussion

Motivation is such an interesting topic. Much like intelligence, the traditional view often puts people into one of two categories (motivated or not motivated; smart or not smart). What we have come to realize is that motivation is very often situational. Helping kids realize that they are in control of motivation can be freeing and empowering.

If we are not careful, a student who feels unmotivated in one subject or environment may carry that feeling over to other areas. As we work with our kids, it is important that they see that we (as adults) are often working through our own motivational challenges. Some people are motivated to have a well-manicured lawn while others struggle to mow every other week. This does not make one person better than the other. People can work to increase motivation. This is a difficult concept for kids as their brains are not yet wired for thinking well into the future, but they are often much more capable than we may initially believe.

Dr. Michael Elder

Director, College and Career Readiness

A note from your specialist...

Report Cards: Go home on Thursday, April 13. **Please make sure you SIGN THE AIG PAPERWORK (Academic Blueprint) that is inside and RETURN to school in the report card envelope ASAP.** (7th/8th graders ONLY)

Middle School Chess Tournament: April 24 at Jacksonville Commons Elementary School. It will take place DURING the school day. Permission slips will be sent home with eligible students soon!

Robotics Club: In full swing at both JCMS and NWPMS. The students are working so hard to get their robot (Lego) put together to start coding! They will code the robots to do tasks from a given list!

Onslow Virtual Summer Accelerator: Opportunities for rising Freshman (current 8th graders) and current high schoolers WILL be available this summer. Students can enroll in ONE online class. High School students must have

an unweighted 3.0 GPA and home school approval. Rising Freshman (current 8th graders) must have approval from current school. Information was sent out via email. Please reach out if you have any questions! Online information available at:

<https://www.onslow.k12.nc.us/50721>

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