



# Parent Engagement Messenger

## Are You Ready?

It is a pleasure to welcome you back to the 2021-2022 school year. We are excited to work closely with you to ensure the success and well-being of all students. Whether we are leaning in person or remotely at home, our goal is to involve parents in shared decision-making and encourage them to become active participants in their child's educational process.

Partnering with families will be vital as we face many obstacles due to the global pandemic. We appreciate your support as you work with students at home to practice safety protocols such as wearing a mask, washing hands, and keeping social distancing. We encourage families to stay connected and informed by following our district website for important updates and information. You can find Clarksdale Municipal School's safe return to in-person plan at <http://www.cmsdschools.org>. Have a fun, safe, and rewarding school year!



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## What should my child learn this year?

The collaboration of parents and educators is vital in guiding each child toward success. The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) created Family Guides for Student Success to help parents set clear and consistent expectations, build knowledge and skills, and set high goals for your child.

- The Family Guide for Student Success outlines what your child should learn at each grade level from prekindergarten through 8th grade in the areas of English Language Arts and Math.
- The Family Guide for Student Success helps parents get a better understanding of the College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS) that students are expected to learn in each grade level, so they can support their child's learning.
- The Family Guide for Student Success booklets can be located on the MDE website: [www.mdek12.org](http://www.mdek12.org) under the Parents button or on the Clarksdale Municipal School District's website: [www.cmsdschools.org](http://www.cmsdschools.org) under the Parents button.



## General Homework Tips for Parents (U.S. Department of Education)

- **Make sure your child has a quiet, well-lit place to do homework.**  
Avoid having your child do homework with the television on or in places with other distractions, such as people coming and going.
- **Make sure the materials your child needs, such as paper, pencils, and a dictionary, are available.**  
Ask your child if special materials will be needed for some projects and get them in advance.
- **Help your child with time management.**  
Establish a set time each day for doing homework. Don't let your child leave homework until just before bedtime. Think about using a weekend morning or afternoon for working on big projects, especially if the project involves getting together with classmates.
- **Be positive about homework.**  
Tell your child how important school is. The attitude you express about homework will be the attitude your child acquires.
- **When your child does homework, you do homework.**  
Show your child that the skills they are learning are related to things you do as an adult. If your child is reading, you read too. If your child is doing math, balance your checkbook.
- **When your child asks for help, provide guidance, not answers.**  
Giving answers means your child will not learn the material. Too much help teaches your child that when the going gets rough, someone will do the work for him or her.
- **When the teacher asks that you play a role in homework, do it.**  
Cooperate with the teacher. It shows your child that the school and home are a team. Follow the directions given by the teacher.



- **If homework is meant to be done by your child alone, stay away.**  
Too much parent involvement can prevent homework from having some positive effects. Homework is a great way for kids to develop independent, lifelong learning skills.
- **Stay informed.**  
Talk with your child's teacher. Make sure you know the purpose of homework and what your child's class rules are.
- **Help your child figure out what is hard homework and what is easy homework.**  
Have your child do the hard work first. This will mean he will be most alert when facing the biggest challenges. Easy material will seem to go fast when fatigue begins to set in.
- **Watch your child for signs of failure and frustration.**  
Let your child take a short break if she is having trouble keeping her mind on an assignment.
- **Reward progress in homework.**  
If your child has been successful in homework completion and is working hard, celebrate that success with a special event (e.g., pizza, a walk, a trip to the park) to reinforce the positive effort.



## Ways Parents Can Help & Support Teachers

As the school year begins again it is important to remember how much you matter. While making sure your child has a healthy breakfast and a good night's rest are key components of success, your help and support in their education is just as important. It has been proven time and time again that a parent who takes an active interest in their child's education is one of the biggest contributors to that child reaching their full academic potential.

Parents and teachers are truly partners, and when they work in conjunction with one another, they provide the greatest chance of academic success in a child. Here are four things to keep in mind when thinking about how you can support your child's teacher this year.

### Educate yourself

Learn about your child's school and curriculum. Ask your child's teacher what the students will be learning this year and familiarize yourself with the subject matter. Find out if there is a class website, blog, or Facebook page that you can join to stay up to date. There are also many free resources available online such as The U.S. Department of Education's 'Helping Your Child Series' which offers free booklets in different subject areas, such as science and mathematics, that are filled with lessons and activities that you can do with your child. To download this series and other helpful resources visit [www2.ed.gov/parents](http://www2.ed.gov/parents).

### Be available

One of the biggest ways to support your child's teacher is to simply keep in contact with them. Whether it is via telephone, e-mail, or face-to-face conversation - teachers appreciate when parents care enough to keep in contact. However, be sure not to overdo it. Your child's teacher often has dozens of students, and it may be unrealistic for them to touch base with you every day. Aim to have a conversation with them once a month.

### Forget your baggage

Parents can sometimes carry the negative experiences they have had with education and unknowingly pass these feelings and attitudes onto their children. Regardless of whether you look back at your school experience fondly or look back and cringe, be sure to impress a positive attitude about school onto your child. For example, instead of saying, "Wake up! You must go to school today," it may be better to say, "Wake up! You get to go to school today." The positive outlook your child has on school and education prompts them to come to school ready and excited to learn.

### Encourage learning at home

Whether learning about different cultures at the grocery store, calculating the tip at a restaurant, or discussing what they are working on in school, make learning a constant part of your child's everyday life. The more your child practices these skills at home the better they will do in school!

## Tips for Parents of Third Graders

Read about it, talk about it, and think about it! Find ways for your child to build understanding, the goal of learning how to read. The tips below offer some fun ways you can help your child become a happy and confident reader. Try a new tip each week. See what works best for your child.

### Make books special

Turn reading into something special. Take your kids to the library, help them get their own library card, read with them, and buy them books as gifts. Have a favorite place for books in your home or, even better, put books everywhere.

### Get them to read another one

Find ways to encourage your child to pick up another book. Introduce him or her to a series like The Boxcar Children or Harry Potter or to a second book by a favorite author or ask the librarian for additional suggestions.

### Crack open the dictionary

Let your child see you use a dictionary. Say, "Hmm, I'm not sure what that word means... I think I'll look it up."



Missing School = Missing Out

**MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD IS  
IN SCHOOL EVERYDAY**

Two new Social Workers,

Mrs. Erma Robinson &

Mr. Kamerian Haymon are housed in the

Parent Center. We **WELCOME** you both

and look forward to a **FANTASTIC** year!!!



The Parent Center uses Google Meet to host virtual activities. A phone call message informs parents about the upcoming activity. Please visit [cmsdschools.org](https://cmsdschools.org) to view the flyer for log-in information. The flyer is also shared on Facebook.

### Talk about what you see and do

Talk about everyday activities to build your child's background knowledge, which is crucial to listening and reading comprehension. Keep up a running patter, for example, while cooking together, visiting somewhere new, or after watching a TV show.

### Different strokes for different folks

Read different types of books to expose your child to different types of writing. Some kids, especially boys, prefer nonfiction books.

### "Are we there yet?"

Use the time spent in the car or bus for wordplay. Talk about how jam means something you put on toast as well as cars stuck in traffic. How many other homonyms can your child think of? When kids are highly familiar with the meaning of a word, they have less difficulty reading it.