

HOW CAN PARENTS ENCOURAGE LEARNING AT HOME?

STAY IN THE LOOP

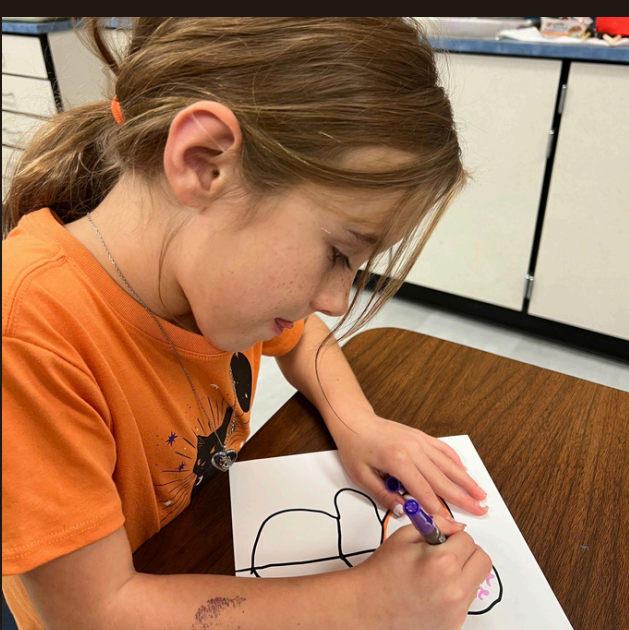
Continuing education at home is important and extremely valuable to your student! Staying involved in your child's education does not mean hovering over every assignment or knowing everything they learned. It means finding simple ways to stay connected, ask meaningful questions, and show interest in what is happening in the classroom. When parents make learning a part of life at home, students can feel more supported and encouraged to succeed. To stay in the loop and keep up to date on the goings on of your kid's classes, Lake Dallas High School and Middle School send out newsletters that can be used as a valuable resource! These newsletters can be easily accessed in ParentSqaure!

BUILD A PREDICTABLE ROUTINE



Kids thrive on structure! Regular routines help them know what's coming next which can reduce stress and encourage a more focused mindset. This doesn't have to be complicated or set in stone for every single day, it's just about a good flow and consistency! A general flow looks like:

- Snack and water
- Homework/reading time
- Brain Break
- Dinner
- Relaxation/family time



CHECK-IN WITHOUT HOVERING

Parents have to support their children in many different ways. For example, they need to offer help without doing the work for them. One of the best things you can do is check in by asking questions like:



“What’s your plan for this assignment?” or “Where are you stuck?”

This helps build independence and also makes them feel reassured that you’re there if they need you. Always follow up with encouragement!

Every kid works differently so if you know your child works best in silence, only check in every now and then and allow them the space that they need to complete their task. If your child works better with background noise, accommodate to whatever encourages their learning.

“WHAT IF A PARENT DOESN’T UNDERSTAND THE MATERIAL?”

You don’t need to be an expert in every subject! Instead, creating a supportive routine with motivation allows the encouragement your student needs.

Don’t hesitate to reach out to teachers! At LDISD, learning at home is extremely supported and any teacher is happy to answer any questions you may have. Resources are available for parents too, not just the students. If you’re stuck with how to respond to a question, try:

- “What do you think you should try first?”
- “How did your teacher explain this part?”

Sometimes, answering these questions out loud is all it takes for a student to understand where they went wrong or what step they need to take next. Remember, parents, you’re a facilitator and learning partner, not instructor, it’s okay to ask questions too!

MAKE LEARNING AN EVERY DAY PART OF LIFE

The most valuable thing a student can do to set themselves up for success is read every single day. Just 15 minutes a day will make a noticeable difference in their vocabulary, comprehension, and writing skills. To keep your child intrigued and wanting to read every day, let them read what interests them. Whether it’s fiction, nonfiction, comics, even magazines, any form of text is helpful to them especially when it’s a daily routine. It’s also important to understand how your child learns best. If they focus better by listening, you can read to them, if audiobooks are helpful, invest in those. The important thing is, reading every day triggers neural activity and improves focus and memory. These things set your falcon up to be great.



HERE'S AN INSIDE LOOK



“There are definitely ways parents can support their students at home, the biggest thing is if they’re reading with them every night and discussing it with them afterward.” Says Shelby Austin, Instructional Coach at Lake Dallas Elementary. She goes on to say, “find what your student/child is capable of. We don’t want the kid to not want to try, if your student struggles with reading, they can listen to you read.” As for parents understanding the material, “Parent help pages are included in the curriculum that’s sent home with the students as a resource for parents to manage the content.” Mrs. Austin continues to say, “Parents can reach out to teachers for support or guidance if they’re struggling to understand the content/material.”

Activities are also sent out for parents to go over with their students if there’s specific tests or big assignments coming up! If you need an easily accessible resource that has your students curriculum, view the link below!

<https://bluebonnet.tea.texas.gov>

Parents, learning doesn’t have to stop in the classroom! Create a routine, be encouraging, use the resources our district has for you! Don’t hesitate to ask questions. Your involvement in your student’s learning, matters!