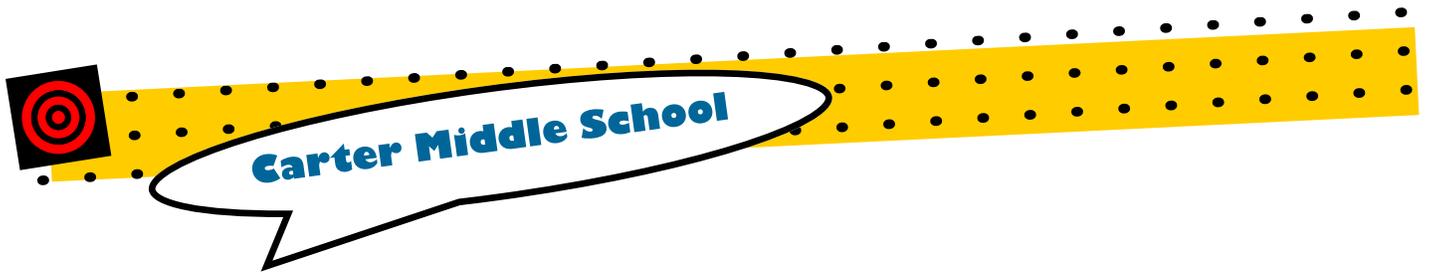




Parenting Tips for Struggling Students

- Provide a quiet place for studying** away from distractions but where they can also be monitored by the parent (ex: the kitchen table). Often times students at this age tell their parents that they are “studying” in their room when in fact, they are not.
- Be sure students have at least 30-45 minutes of homework time EVERY school day.** If students say they do not have homework, please commit to the 30-45 minute time period to check PowerSchool, teacher websites, check backpacks, check agendas, study for upcoming tests, explore www.khanacademy.org or simply read a book. Keeping track of their daily studies will teach them accountability and time management skills. This also provides a visual sense of accomplishment for both the parent and student.
- Keep learning POSITIVE** especially if your student hasn't always experienced success. If you see your child getting discouraged, it is alright to give them a little “brain break” (set a timer for 5-10 minutes) so they can regroup and come back to the table more focused.
- Set academic goals with your child** that are short-term, attainable and written, so you and your child can monitor their progress TOGETHER. (SEE: SMART GOAL EXAMPLE)
- Insist on good attendance.** Middle School students are not always capable of getting themselves to school on time every day. They need your support and persistence. Statistics prove that students lose valuable instruction and are automatically at a disadvantage when they are not in school ON TIME AND PRESENT EVERY DAY.
- Monitor PowerSchool** regularly. Log into www.wcskids.net/parentportal/ - if you have trouble accessing your student's PowerSchool page, please contact Carter Middle School at 586-825-2620 for assistance.
- Use rewards and consequences.** Students who achieve their Smart Goals could earn some small reward (such as an hour of video games or cell phone use or maybe they get to choose what's for dinner). Consequences must be consistent and persistent in order for them to be effective. Consequences should be enforced on a daily basis (today might not be a good day, but tomorrow can be). Examples of consequences include taking away electronics for the day, no friends allowed over, not being allowed to isolate themselves from the family by going and staying in their room. Instead, encourage your child to use this time to reflect and get caught up on their studies.



Carter Middle School

- Encourage a healthy environment** by limiting student’s electronic use and monitoring their social media accounts and friendships to be sure they are all positive. It is important for your student to be physically active at this age so provide as many SUPERVISED activities as you can (ex: sports, playing outside, walks, bike riding etc.) A healthy diet and hydration (drinking plenty of water) are imperative for a student’s overall well-being.
- Help your child stay organized.** It is suggested that your student be provided with a 2 pocket folder and matching notebook for each class. Help your child go through these materials DAILY to be sure they know what needs to be completed and turned in. Help by labeling each folder with one pocket for **work in progress** and the other for **work completed**.
- Provide academic and emotional support.** PARENT INVOLVEMENT IS THE KEY TO ACADEMIC SUCCESS. It is important for your student to experience your encouragement and support. If you do not know how to help your student with their homework, do not hesitate to reach out to the teacher and/or counselor via email or phone. YOU ARE YOUR CHILD’S ROLE MODEL. IF YOU ARE POSITIVE ABOUT THEIR EDUCATION, THEY WILL BE TOO! Be a good example of embracing challenges so your child learns this skill as well.



GOAL: Academic Progress in Math

S	Specific	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do I want to improve? • What are the requirements? 	I would like to raise my math grade by one full grade (D to a C).
M	Measurable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How will I measure my progress? 	I will check my folder and Power School regularly.
A	Achievable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the steps I should take to accomplish my goals? 	I will work at home on my math assignments daily and study for assessments. Class time will be used effectively and I will ask questions in class.
R	Relevant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do I have the necessary resources to accomplish this goal? 	I will check my backpack to make sure I have math materials to complete homework.
T	Time-Bound	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How long will it take to accomplish this goal? 	I will access teacher websites & www.KhanAcademy.org to help me at home. I will see progress weekly (Power School).