

OBAMA

September 2, 2009

Getting off to a Great Start!

Parents, the new school year is well underway with three weeks already behind us, and we are almost at the midpoint of the first quarter. Our teachers are already off to a great start in their lessons and the excitement still exists as we constantly seek God's guidance concerning the education of each child. Our goal is to see each and every student realize a true measure of success. With this in mind, we pray that just as the teachers are off to a great start, the students are as well and are excited about this year's learning experience. Listed below are three helpful tips to ensure that your child takes off running toward the finish line.

Get Organized - One of the biggest pitfalls to student success is being unorganized. Those students who have mastered great organizational skills are usually your honor students. Never allow a child to trust his/her mind concerning due dates for assignments or dates for quizzes and test. These things should be captured from the board and placed in an agenda or assignment book if a middle or high schooler. Elementary students should place their test / quiz notices in a binder or post it on the refrigerator or wall, and assignments should be recorded daily. Students should have separate folders for each subject and placed in one binder that they bring with them everyday. Completed assignments should be placed in the folder for the corresponding class to make it easier to locate. Other items that should be in the binder are notebook paper, writing utensils and his/her planner. This makes it less likely that things will be misplaced.

Stay on top of Homework - Students should complete homework daily. This is the general rule of thumb for the elementary campus because their homework will be due the next day. However, middle / high school students are on a block schedule where classes meet every other day. It is easy to get in a habit of thinking you have an extra day to complete your homework, but it is a lot less likely that you will forget to do it or get behind if you complete it the day that it is assigned.

Study - Don't Cram! - to study means to apply oneself to the acquisition of knowledge (American Heritage). The only way you can truly do this is to move the knowledge you have obtained out of rote memory and into long term memory by putting forth an assiduous effort to retain it. This does not happen through cramming (to force or stuff) the information the night before the quiz / test. Set aside time to learn the information in chunks; over a period of a few days to obtain the optimal results.

PROBE College Fair - 9th - 12th graders will participate in a college fair on September 18 from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm at Atlanta Metropolitan College. This is an excellent opportunity to learn about various post-secondary institutions, technical schools and branches of the military. Participating schools will vary. Students should come prepared to ask questions - their future depends on an earnest and diligent effort. Permission slips have been disseminated in the weekly folder. Please ensure that it is signed and returned to the home-room teacher no later than Friday, September 11, 2009.

Counselor's Corner