

# TALKING ABOUT ASSIGNMENTS

1. Check your own emotions before having the conversation.



Take some deep breaths to reset your patience before approaching your child.



Find the right time that works for your family.

(When we project our own frustrations or anger on our children, they can often shut down.)



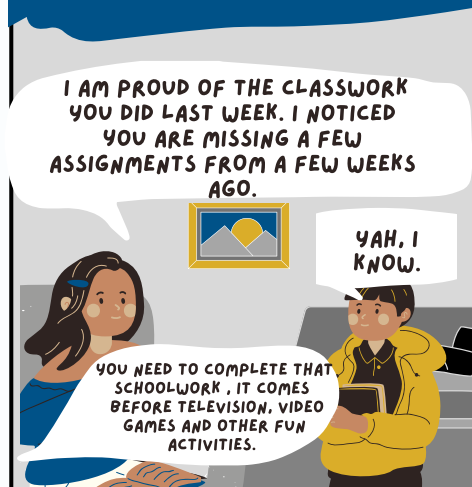
2. Look to see what is missing and what has been completed.



Tell your student what they are doing well.



If there are missing assignments, restate your expectation.



3. Ask and listen. If your child has multiple assignments missing, ask them calmly what's happening? And then truly listen to their answers.



- Do you have all of the information you need to complete the assignment?
- Do you know how to do the assignment?
- Will your teacher accept late assignments?



4. Affirm their feelings and encourage them to advocate for themselves.

"I understand that school can be challenging." "I hear you that writing a paper can feel overwhelming."



Encourage them to ask their teacher for help. "Have you contacted your teacher for help?"

If your student is older, encourage them to go see their teacher after school or ask to make an appointment.



5. Hold them accountable for your expectations. Agree on a reasonable amount of time to get this done, and check back in with them to ensure they've completed it.

# CONVERSATION TIPS

## Monitoring Assignments

- Check in on assignments and grades in Teams or Infinite Campus. Ask your child how things are going and listen carefully to your child's answers.
- Praise what they are doing well and express your expectations if there are missing assignments. For example: "You did great on that test. You do need to get those missing assignments in. This comes before TV, video games or other activities." If your child is missing many assignments, ask calmly what is happening?
  - Do you have all of the information you need to complete the assignment?
  - Do you know how to do the assignment?
  - Will your teacher accept late assignments?
- Agree on a reasonable amount of time together to complete the work and follow up.
- It's important to affirm your child's feelings and encourage them to advocate for themselves.
- If your child is having difficulties doing the work, encourage them to ask for help from their teacher.
  - "Have you contacted your teacher for help?" "Maybe you could set up a time with Mr./Ms.... after school."

## Staying Organized and On Track

Some good questions to ask your child when coaching them through time management:

- How long will each of your assignments take you?
- Do you have any large projects due soon that you need to be working on? If so, can you break that large project up into smaller chunks of activities so that you aren't trying to do the whole thing at once?
- How can you spread out your assignments over the week so that everything doesn't come due at the last minute?

## Reviewing Feedback/ Discussing Progress

It's also important to have a discussion with your child about what they are learning. Start with a conversation and with listening to your child. Some questions you might ask them are:

- Which subjects (math, writing, science, social studies) do you enjoy the most?
- Why do you think you enjoy that subject?
- Which subjects do you find the most challenging or difficult?
- Are you looking at the feedback that your teacher is providing you in Teams? Do you understand what your teacher is telling you?
- How can you use that information to improve on your assignments in the future?
- For older students, have you asked your teacher for extra help? What did your teacher(s) say?
- Do you know how to contact your teacher(s)?
- Do you know what questions to ask them?

If your child says no, you might consider brainstorming what they are going to ask their teacher and then checking in a day or two later to ensure that they did contact their teacher and have the conversation.

## Students Advocating for Themselves

- After looking at your student portal, what do you need to get done this week?
- What's your plan to get those assignments done?
- What help do you need from me, as your parent, to keep you on track?

If your student answers that they didn't know how to complete the assignment, ask them - Have you tried asking a friend in the class, ask your teacher, reread the description of the assignment and look at any notes you wrote in class.

\*Younger children may need help directly from their parents while older children can do this themselves with their parents monitoring to ensure they are doing this.