

High School **1** YEARS

Working together for lifelong success

Short Clips

Time to plan

Winter is usually the time for high schoolers to start thinking about next year's class schedule. Suggest that your teen talk to her guidance counselor about programs and courses that suit her future plans, such as vocational training and advanced placement classes.

Presidential play

This Presidents' Day, spark an interesting family discussion by asking what each person would do if he were president for a day. You can also read presidents' biographies and challenge each other to online games at <http://familyinternet.about.com/library/weekly/aa021301a.htm>.

Get involved

Want to be involved in your child's school and help keep it safe at the same time? Consider forming a parent-staffed school safety committee. Or find out if the school offers violence prevention programs, and ask how you can help.

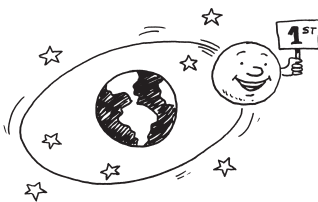
Worth quoting

"Happiness does not depend on outward things, but on the way we see them." *Leo Tolstoy*

Just for fun

Q: What was the first satellite to orbit the Earth?

A: The moon!



Test-taking tactics

When a test lands on your child's desk, does he freeze with anxiety—even if he is prepared? On your teen's next exam day, help him feel calmer and more confident with these test-tackling tricks.

1 Listen to (don't just read) directions. Teachers may point out important details, such as changes to written instructions or errors on the exam. After listening, scan the test to see how it's organized. Plan your time according to the number of questions and which sections are worth the most points.

2 Answer sample questions in each section for practice. Tackle objective, easier questions, like multiple choice, before essays. Put a pencil mark next to those you're not sure of, so you can go back if there's time. Unless wrong answers carry penalties, guess instead of leaving answers blank. On a



true/false question, for example, you have a 50 percent chance of being right.

3 Whenever you're tempted to change an answer, remember that first reactions are usually right. If you're having trouble picking a multiple-choice answer, eliminate the ones you know are wrong to narrow your choices.

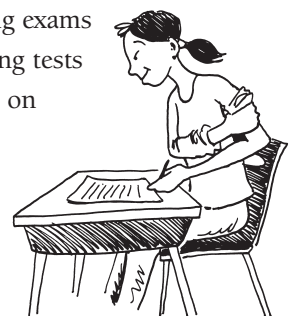
Hint: When answers on tests contain words such as "all," "none," "always," and "never," they are often incorrect. A correct answer is more apt to contain words like "usually," "sometimes," and "frequently." 🤔

Student cheating

Did you know that 74 percent of teens admit to cheating on an exam at least once in the past year? The pressure to cheat may be overwhelming for some kids when grades, college scholarships, and athletics participation are on the line. Academic dishonesty can occur in several ways. Here are some examples:

- Using cell phones or pagers to get information during exams
- Finding out exam questions and answers before taking tests
- Having other students do homework or write papers on their behalf

Let your teenager know that a high grade gained by cheating isn't worth the low it could bring to her reputation and character. Together, brainstorm consequences for cheating. Then, be prepared to enforce them—and praise her for honest work. 🤝



Creating tolerant attitudes

Fast-forward several years: Your teens are managing employees of different ethnicities. Will they be able to get along with and treat people fairly? In a “melting pot” nation, you can help your children learn to be tolerant and to respect people of other races, nationalities, and walks of life. Here’s how:

- Start by telling your teenagers that *every* person is capable of being successful as well as making mistakes. It’s the individual, not the nationality or gender, that matters. Point out accomplished people who are “different”—but



haven’t let the differences get in their way.

- Put your high schoolers in situations where they can get to know people from other backgrounds. Church and community groups offer a wonderful opportunity for kids to meet people they might not otherwise encounter.
- Research your family heritage together. What cultures are part of your ancestry? What are the histories and customs of those cultures? Learning about the diversity in their own backgrounds can help your teens be more tolerant of others. 👍

Proofreading primer

Turning in a report without proofreading is like sending a child to school without his shoes on—dressed but with a glaring error. Suggest that your teen try these proofreading tips.



Proofread from a printed copy. You’re more likely to see mistakes than when reading on a computer screen.

Read your paper backward. It will be easier to catch spelling errors when your mind isn’t “reading” a sentence.

Write out corrections. When you find an error, don’t just underline it. Note the change you want to make.

Proofread in stages. Read your paper one time for content and format. Then, check for spelling and punctuation mistakes.

Double-check your paper. Proof *after* running your computer’s spell-checker feature. Spell-checkers can miss—as well as create—errors.

Recruit a fresh pair of eyes. Someone reading the paper for the first time may spot mistakes you’ve missed. 👍

OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

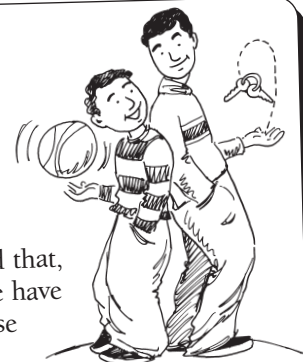
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Q & A Sibling equality

Q I just gave my oldest son an extended curfew. My younger son complains that his brother always gets preferential treatment and that I don’t love him as much. How should I respond?

A Explain that he and his brother are both unique and that, while you love each for his own special qualities, people have unique needs. What is right for his older brother because of his age may not be right for him.

Reassure your youngest son that the time will come when he wants (and gets) something his sibling doesn’t, such as permission for a special activity. When he’s older, your rules will allow him more freedom. Emphasize what you value about your younger child, and tell him his needs *do* matter—they’re just different from his brother’s at the moment. 👍



Parent to Parent Foiling foul language

My high schooler recently began a cursing habit that was upsetting and embarrassing.

I explained that such language was offensive and disrespectful—not only to me, but to others as well. I suggested she think of other, appropriate phrases that expressed the same feelings. I also challenged her to set the tone for her friends. For example, she should look for



solutions instead of complaining, which seemed to go hand in hand with ugly language. I warned her that if I heard her cursing again, she’d lose her telephone and e-mail privileges.

My daughter gave me the “Oh, Mom!” when I discussed it with her, but I’ve noticed she’s stopped using curse words. I think she has realized that how she speaks to others affects their opinion of her. 👍