

Roads to Success is a new program designed to help middle and high school students prepare for their futures. This newsletter will keep you posted on what we're doing in school, and how families can follow through at home.

Did you know?

Many middle-schoolers need help getting (and staying) organized. Start things off one day at a time. Encourage your child to keep a list of a few things he wants to get done each day. Cross each task off the list once it's finished.

Getting Organized

For many students, the first day of school feels a lot like New Year's Day. They may be eager for a fresh start and full of resolutions about making this year better than the one before.

How can families help kids make good on their promises to do well? Like adults, kids need to make concrete plans to stick to their resolutions. Here are some ways to tell if your teen is on the right track:

Does he write down his assignments for every class, every day? The first step to becoming a good student is to know what's expected. Many school districts provide daily planners to help students keep track of their assignments. (No fumbling around for missing scraps of paper in the bottom of the book bag.)

Once your student has demonstrated he can do this consistently for two or

three weeks, he's on his way.



Does she have a routine time and place for studying? Say no to nagging by making a study plan with your child when things are calm. Agree on when, where, and how she'll study. Figure out what works for her, and stick to the same routine every day.

Is he able to break down a big assignment into a series of smaller steps? As kids get older, teachers expect them to tackle big assignments given weeks in advance. Avoid the last-minute rush by helping your teen break big assignments into smaller ones. Write due dates for these smaller assignments

on a calendar, and check in to see if your student is meeting his own deadlines.

Does she have the tools she needs to get the work done? Make sure the materials she needs are nearby: a dictionary, paper, something to write with, the assignment, books, and handouts. A routine is helpful here, too. Your student should have a place at home for materials that are going to school the next day, and a place at school for materials coming home. (This is even more important if your teen spends afterschool time in more than one place.)

Grade by Grade: Study Skills

The transition to middle school can be a challenge. Students face new kids, new classes, new teachers — each with their own expectations.

Roads to Success offers a series of lessons to help seventh-graders get

organized — from taking notes to taking tests.

We'll show students how they can improve their school performance. We'll also show how skills developed in school carry over into the workplace. (How do doctors,

waitresses, and party planners use notetaking on the job?)

For more about Roads to Success, contact your child's teacher, or check us out at www.roadstosuccess.org.