

Parents' Page

Martha's Vineyard Public Schools
Sponsored by the Title 1 Grant

Highlights

- * Parent Workshops open to all schools
- * Parental Involvement: In and Out of School
- * Homework Hints
- * Have fun and learn: websites

Workshop Dates

MCAS: What is it and why is it Important?
Monday, March 10th
6:30-8:30pm

Handling Homework Horrors
Wednesday, April 2nd
7pm

*Please pre-register by calling Robyn Gurney at 693-4489 or email gurney@mvyps.org

Upcoming Parent Workshops

MCAS: What is it and why is it important?* Presented by Parents Place: MASS PIRC
Monday, March 10, 2008, 6:30-8:30 pm
Oak Bluffs School Community Room

MCAS is a key strategy for improving education in Massachusetts. It is a way to ensure high standards for students and holds schools accountable for student progress. This workshop explains the reasons why we have this statewide testing system and how it is currently being implemented. Parents examine sample MCAS questions and responses and explore supports and resources available for helping students improve their performance.

Handling Homework Horrors* Presented by Stuart Peskin, Title 1 Dissemination Project
Wednesday, April 2, 2008, 7:00pm (runs 1-1 1/2 hours)
MVRHS Library Conference Room

Homework is a nightmare for many parents. A daily struggle evolves around its completion and accuracy. This session is designed to help parents deal with both the completion and accuracy issues that can make homework such a problem.

*Please pre-register by calling Robyn Gurney at 693-4489 or email gurney@mvyps.org
Portuguese/English Translators will be provided.

Parent Involvement: In and Out of School

We all know, and over 30 years of research has shown, that parental involvement has a major impact on student success.

Parents are essential in ensuring children's success in schools. When parents are involved, we see an increase in grades, test scores and graduation rates. Students have better attendance. There is also a decrease in violent and troubling behaviors, including the use of alcohol and drugs.

Parents can be involved in their child's education in

many ways, with the common thought of volunteering in school being only one. Parents can also play an active role outside of the school building.

J. Epstein has identified 6 types of involvement.

1. Parenting
2. Communicating (with the school/teacher, about your child)
3. Volunteering (in-school or with projects at home)
4. Learning at home (support, curricula-related activities, dance/music

lessons, monitoring of homework)

5. Decision making (PTOs, SAC, Voting on town issues/budgets)

6. Collaborating with the community (awareness of community groups, and resources for enrichment)

Parental involvement changes as grade level increases, but shouldn't diminish. Get involved and reap the rewards!

Homework Hints

- Assume that your children will have studying to do every night.
- Ask your children if they understand their homework. If they do not, work a few examples together.
- Ask your children to show you their homework after the teacher returns it, to learn where they're having trouble and where they're doing well. See if your children did the work correctly.
- Stay in touch with your children's teachers. Ask about their classes and what they are studying. Ask their teachers how you can support what they are studying (flash cards, spelling, etc.).
- Remember, you and their teachers want the same thing — to help your children learn.
- Don't be afraid to get in touch with the teacher if you and your child don't understand an assignment or if your child is having a great deal of trouble. Almost all parents run into these problems, and teachers are glad to help.
- Don't do your children's work for them. Help them learn how to do it themselves.
- Show your children that you think homework is important. If you are at work during homework time, ask to see their work when you get home.
- Praise your children for doing well. Make praise a habit.
- Maintain a portfolio of "best pieces."
- Ask your school about tips or guides for helping your children develop good study habits.
- Help older students organize their assignments by recording them on calendars or planners, along with due dates, dates turned in, etc.

This guide is a joint project of NEA and National PTA.

www.nea.org/parents

Have fun and learn: websites

An adult should preview the website and check for content before visiting with a child, as some domain names are sold occasionally.

www.readwritethink.org/materials/wordbuild/

www.hhmi.org/coolscience

www.nasa.gov/audience/forstudents/

www.theproblemsite.com

<http://funschool.kaboose.com>

www.primarygames.com

www.gamequarium.com

www.backyardnature.net

www.literacycenter.net/parents_teacher/index.htm

www.coolmath4kids.com