

## 6. Look ahead to High School.

High school launches students into college. How is does your high school measure up? Does it offer AP or honors classes? These classes provide students an advantage when applying for college.

Also check out the electives and extra-curricular activities that will engage and motive your child? Are there community resources to supplement what the school does/does not offer?

## 7. DON'T Wait to Get Your Child Help with Study Skills!

Your child will need time-management, study, and organizational skills to succeed in high school and college. It is easier to address these issues NOW before the work gets more challenging. Make sure your child has a quiet place to do homework along with paper, pens, and other materials.

Establish a regular routine and monitor the results. If your child is struggling—check out opportunities for additional help. If you are unsure of where to look, ask their teacher or counselor.



## BUSY PARENT?????

No matter HOW busy you are, there are things you can do to help your children with their homework. Here are some creative suggestions for you to incorporate into your active lives!

### Use Your Time Well

- Organize your time.
- Do a few things at once.
- Find other people to help.

TIP: Start homework in the car while waiting! The car is a quiet place where you can talk together.

### Balance Work Schedules and Family

- Do some school things at the beginning of the day.
- Make breakfast your family meal.
- Do things differently on weekends.

TIP: Working a late shift—check over work in the morning!

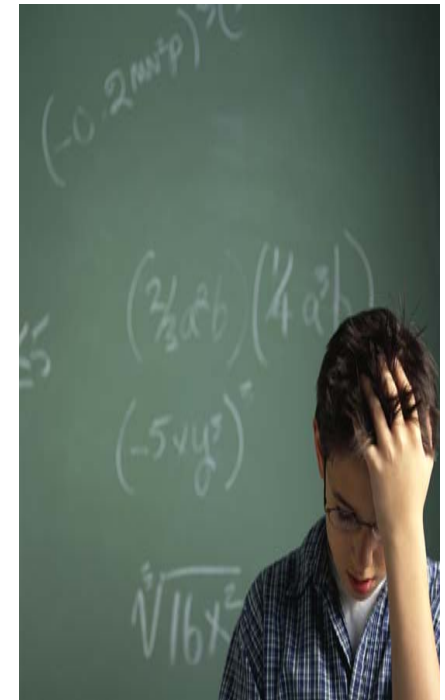
### Help with Time Management

Break projects into smaller chunks!  
Build in breaks (15 minutes of work earns a 3 minute break)



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## A Middle School Parent's Guide to College Preparation!



SD Parent Information and Resource Center

## It is **NOT** too Early to **PLAN!**

If you are like most parents—you expect your child to go to college. Most students have the same goal. Unfortunately, neither parents or students are taking any practical steps to get there.

It is important that you both begin to discuss and plan for college no later than middle school for the following reasons:

- Your child needs strong preparation in middle school to take the high school courses required by colleges.
- There are lots of ways to make college affordable for you and your family—scholarships, low interest loans, work-study—but it takes time to research them to get the information you need in order to meet application deadlines.

College planning is important for **ALL** families, even if you attended the college process has changed!

**98 %** of seventh and eighth grade said they were likely to attend college.

**68%** said they had little or no information about what classes to take to prepare for college.

## Here are **7 ways to jumpstart your planning!**

### 1. *TALK ABOUT COLLEGE!*

As a parent, your expectations have a huge influence on what your child expects of themselves, even if she doesn't want you to know it. You can help your child to envision their future. Talk with your child about their interests and how those interests might translate into a college major and career. It is also not too early to begin to visit colleges—it may give your child the ability to picture themselves in that environment.

### 2. *MAKE the SCHOOL Your PARTNER!*

Middle school can be a time when parents tend to be less involved. But this is a critical time when your child really needs your encouragement and guidance. Meet your child's teachers, make it clear you want to be kept up to date with changes in schoolwork or behavior. Go over the results of their standardized tests with their teacher or a counselor so that you can learn more about your child's strengths and weaknesses. Try to match up your child's interests with electives and extracurricular activities.

### 3. *Get VERY Involved in Your Child's Choice of Classes.*

Your child should take Math, English, History and Science **EVERY YEAR** while in Middle School. Your child will need to satisfy more than basic high school graduation requirements to be prepared to succeed in college.

The research is clear: Kids who take algebra by 8th grade and geometry by 9th grade are much more likely to go to college than those who don't. These math classes are required in order to take the more advanced high school math and science classes like physics and chemistry.

### 4. *Get Savvy about College Costs.*

Do your homework! Don't wait until your child is a junior or a senior to begin to look at options for funding. Research how college funding works, look into saving options such as the 529 plans.

Your child can also get college credit by taking Advanced Placement (AP) classes in high school or during summer school at a local university. AP classes could possibly save you a year's worth of tuition. However, your child must be academically prepared to take advantage of this option.



### 5. *Encourage your child to READ, READ, READ!*

This is simply the **BEST** preparation for the SAT, ACT, or college reading assignments your child will have.

Make it a family priority to build vocabulary.

Get a word a day calendar—have your

child learn the word and teach it to the rest of the family at dinner. Have fun learning different words and their meanings!