



Building Literacy Skills at Home

Literacy based activities should be encouraged at home during middle and high school years. Strong literacy skills are essential for development, provide a foundation for school and work, social skills, and solving problems. Below are a few strategies you can do at home with you middle and high schooler.

1. **Start a Family Book Club.** Read a book as a family and engage in discussions around the story.
2. **Listen to Audio Books.** Listening to a novel as a whole family is a great way to engage in family book discussions.
3. **Promote Choice.** Allowing your child to choose books they want to read can help foster a love of reading.
4. **Mix in Movies.** Suggest books from movies your child likes. They may enjoy getting the additional details that the book provides. Discuss how the book and movie are different. Compare how the movie and book were different. Which story line did they like best.
5. **Read to younger siblings.** Encourage your older child to read and discuss a book to a younger sibling or family member.
6. **Play Games.** Games like Scrabble, Boggle, and other board games require reading skills.

Just a few minutes spent each day on simple literacy activities can add up to a life-long love of reading and learning. (<https://doe.louisiana.gov/>)

Supporting Your Child Through Middle & High School Math

It's no secret the Math is source of most homework stress for teens. Being a parent of a teen there's a fine line of help for the teen between doing to much for them or let them struggle for themselves. To help alleviate some of the stress and to help your teen to become self confident, below are a few things to help navigate Math homework.

1. Encourage your student to focus on the how of the problem and solution works. Ask them to explain the problem and focus on the "why" of the problem by asking questions "why does this work?"
2. Encourage your child to do their best to always be positive and encouraging. Math takes practice and patience.
3. Do admit if you don't fully understand a problem and it's ok if they don't understand it right now. Discuss how to figure out how to solve the problem, look at past problems, search on google or youtube.
4. Keep current on the math concepts being taught and research before hand to refresh your memory or learn a new the new concept before helping your child.
5. Look at your options—is there someone close like, uncle, neighbor, sibling that would be willing to help with math homework.
6. Be Cautious walking the fine line of helping, guiding, teaching and doing to much.

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Riding Bikes

A rewarding activity the CHOICES and STEPS enjoy is bike riding. They have several large parking lots to ride in and to create a riding course to increase their driving skills. Students follow safety protocols while riding. This activity is a skill that most middle and high schoolers enjoy and can participate in easily. The benefits of this activity is the physical aspect and just being out doors in the nice weather.



Diamond Art Activity

The Afterschool programs have taken to the Diamond Art activity creating many beautiful pieces of art. This activity is a calming, mindfulness activity that can help to reduce stress of everyday life. The students enjoy the creativity and accomplishment of finishing a beautiful project.



Brendon Trojan Magic Show

Brendon Trojan visit the afterschool program and performed amazing tricks and a great performance the the program. Students were invited to the stage to help with acts in his program.



La Comedia "Into the Woods"

Students for SGMHS, RVMS, and RVHS traveled to Springboro, Ohio to La Comedia Dinner Theatre for a delicious dining and Broadway-style live entertainment on March 6, 2025. The experience started out with a buffet consisting of breakfast foods and lunch items. The students saw "Into the Woods" that contained familiar fairy tale characters from Grimm's Fairy Tales like Little Red Riding Hood, the Baker and his wife, Cinderella and more with a twist. The characters realize that they must work together to set everything straight in the kingdom. The students had a great experience



At the end of the program, Kona Ice truck visits the program as a way to celebrate the end of the program for the summer. Students love to line up for their cup of ice and then they can choose the flavor they would like or mix flavors for a personalized one-of-a-kind treat. Then they sit out in the warm sunshine eating their treat. A great way to finish.



Steps offered Driver's Education the second semester. Students get to do the book part of Driver's Education by registering and attending the STEPS program. If a student attends 30 days of the afterschool program then they will get their driving portion paid for as well. This is a great financial opportunity for families if students participate.