

Parental Call to Action- How to Support Your Child's Education: Article 8 of 8 in Series

Over the last eight weeks, I have enjoyed sharing with you some of the exciting new developments taking place in the West Platte School District and in schools across the nation. I have enjoyed talking about what we are doing within our schools, but now it's time to talk about you!

Hands down, parental involvement is one of the biggest factors that determines the success or failure of a child. When teachers and parents connect and develop a positive relationship centered on the success of the student, great things happen. When teachers and parents come together, it sends a strong message to the child that they are supported, they are accountable, and most importantly, they are empowered to be the best they can be!

To further strengthen the home-school connection, the United States Department of Education offers some suggestions you can use to help reinforce the school days' learning at home:

- Encourage Your Child To read- Show that you value reading, and praise your child's efforts.
- Talk with Your Child – Staying connected, involved and listening will strengthen your relationship.
- Monitor Homework – Today that is easier than ever with online access. Collaborate, and then celebrate success.
- Limit TV and Video Gaming – Instead, try learning which engages digital resources and interaction.
- Encourage Your Child To Use The Library – Libraries are places of learning and discovery for everyone.
- Help Your Child Develop Digital Citizenship – Digital citizenship is aligned to today's communities.
- Encourage Your Child To Be Responsible – Responsibility is essential for success in school and life.
- Encourage Active Learning – Involve yourself in active learning activities. Your child will love the partnership.
- Feed and Rest the Mind and Body – Quality sleep and nutrition serve as the foundation for learning!

Along with these traditional suggestions, the new dynamics of the Common Core and technology call for additional support. As we seek to prepare students for success in *their* future, it will be important that parents become educated and stay educated on current trends in education. The Common Core requires technology to be embedded in learning. Students who are most comfortable with technology will be most prepared to show what they know when assessed. Soon, the West Platte School District will be handing your child a computer device much in the same way it has handed out textbooks for nearly 100 years. While safeguards will be in place, there is no safeguard greater than the involvement of the parent and the relationship that exists between the parent and the teacher. I encourage you to look for ways to work in unison with your child's teacher to ensure this is a success.

It's been said, it takes a village to raise a child. As you seek to raise your child in the very best way possible, you have a partner standing by at West Platte! Getting connected is both the responsibility of the teacher and the parent. At West Platte, you are always invited to engage with your child's classroom, teachers, and the school. If you need help with your child, give us a call. If you have a problem, drop by. If you have questions, email us. We are here to work alongside you to make sure your child succeeds. And if I can help, let me know!

I have enjoyed writing to you over the last eight weeks and I hope the information has been of assistance to you. The interactive "anchor" presentation which covers the topics addressed in this article series may be accessed on the all new West Platte website: wpsd.net. This anchor slideshow will connect you with a variety of multimedia and in-depth details on this movement. On behalf of our students and teachers, thank you for your time to investigate the 21st Century learning which is occurring at West Platte. Working together, we can create a World Class Educational Program for your child! We look forward to partnering for progress with you in the Common Core Era!

Best Regards, Jerrod H. Wheeler, Ed. D. Superintendent of Schools