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IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Help Students Succeed By Teaching Them Good Homework Habits

SPRINGBORO, Ohio – Whenever I have the opportunity to speak to parent groups, inevitably the question of homework arises. Some people feel their young children are given too much homework; others are surprised by the lack of homework.

In many cases, the difference in homework is related to the age of the student, and to preferences and expectations of individual teachers. There is no hard and fast rule as a school district to the amount of homework that should be given each day, but I will tell you that our teachers have an unbelievable amount of material they need to teach children in only 180 days. Homework is almost always necessary.

What I do tell parents when they express concerns over homework is to stay in contact with their student's teacher. If your child is constantly having issues with not understanding homework assignments, or they do not understand the concepts being taught in the assignment, their teacher needs to be aware of this so that they can take the intervention steps necessary.

The most important thought I can relay to our parents is our teachers want your child to succeed. I have never met a teacher in Springboro that delights in a student who is failing. In fact, just the opposite is true. Many teachers take a child's success or failure personally, and a child who succeeds is a sign to a teacher that they are succeeding.

Springboro Community Schools desperately needs its parents to be actively involved in their children's homework life. That is why we offer the program ProgressBook. The important resource can be found by visiting our website at www.springboro.org, click "District" and then "Resources." (*Note: ProgressBook is available for grades 2-12.*)

The very first item you will find under "Resources" is ProgressBook. Please familiarize yourself with this program. Teachers are required to update their entries into ProgressBook weekly – and many do so much more frequently than that.

You will find current homework assignments. This is important because you can monitor the work your child should be completing on any given night. I know many parents print out the homework assignments for the entire week on Monday, and post it on their refrigerator so that the student and the parents can keep on top of assignments.

At the junior high and high school, teachers often times will post long term assignments to help with planning for projects. All this is done to help students be successful.

It is easy to find out whether your student is actually doing their homework by clicking on the “Student” portion of ProgressBook. Their class schedule will pop up, and you can click on each subject to see if your child has any “0” where they should have points for doing their homework.

It is a great way to hold your child accountable for their work, and it also allows parents to stay on top of any problems.

It is important to remember the main purpose for homework is that it reinforces concepts taught at school. Teachers can look over a student’s homework, and figure out whether the student understands what is being taught at school or if they need help. Homework is not “busy work” given to students; there are sound educational reasons as to why it is assigned.

Parents, you can help. One of the side lessons homework teaches is responsibility. With your help, students can learn at an early age how important it is to follow rules, do what is expected and to be organized. In most cases, students who fail have a track record of disorganization with their materials and thoughts.

(Dr. David Baker is superintendent of Springboro Community Schools.)

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