



## *Engaging Parents in Student Learning*

Research into effective parental engagement at the junior high level has shown certain home-based activities and attitudes to have the greatest positive impact on student academic performance. The focus is on supporting student learning by setting expectations regarding homework, organization and academic achievement; discussing approaches and strategies for learning; providing opportunities and encouraging their children to take responsibility for their own success.

When schools encourage students to take ownership of and responsibility for their learning, as well as the assessment of that learning, they help students achieve their full potential. Motivation is closely linked to achievement. These same students are more likely to come home motivated about learning and engage their parents in discussions about school.

Parents are not expected to teach their child math. However, they can help facilitate and engage in activities that support student learning at home: **Prompting** their child in regards to organization, effort, initiating tasks and staying on task. Parents can **encourage** their child to use discourse as part of the learning process. They can **listen** and **act as a sounding board** as their child communicates their thinking, understanding, and gaps in knowledge. They can **discuss** the importance of establishing learning-oriented goals and approaching their teacher for help. As students achieve their learning goals, parents will have opportunities to **follow-up** on progress, **motivate**, and **praise** effort. Parents can help their child develop confidence and resilience in problem solving... one conversation at a time.



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