

MATH Tips

How to help kids with homework (you don't understand!)

But what do you do when your child comes home with math homework that involves squiggles and diagrams instead of straight-forward columns of numbers? Stop. Breathe. Instead of cursing Common Core or teaching your child “your” way of doing math, try these tips instead:

•**Stay calm.** “Keeping emotional levels to a manageable level is very important,” Laura Laing (former math teacher and author of “Math for Grownups”) says, while recognizing that “calm” is not often the first reaction of stressed-out parents who suddenly feel incapable of first-grade math. Getting visibly frustrated, though, will only cause more problems.

•**Try saying, “This is hard for me” or “I didn’t learn it this way.”** There’s nothing wrong with

•admitting to your kids that you don’t know everything. In fact, Laing says, it’s good for kids to know that adults struggle with hard things, too – and great for kids to realize that there are lots of ways to solve problems.

•**Encourage your child to talk to the teacher.**

Instead of showing your child another way to solve the problem, encourage her to ask her teacher about the problems she doesn’t understand. Teachers want (and need!) to know when students are struggling. “Try saying, ‘How about if you talk to your teacher tomorrow, and then you come home and show me how it’s done?’” Laing suggests.

•**Give the teacher a heads-up.** Shoot your child’s teacher an email or text message, letting him know that you tried to help and that your student is upset. The teacher will be better prepared to help your student and may even send you some tips for next time.

•**Look online.** Early in the year, ask your child’s teacher what math curriculum the class is using. Most math curriculums offer a lot of information and parent

support online. If your elementary school uses Everyday Math, for instance, run a search for “Everyday Math parent resources.” Many middle schools use Agile Mind, a curriculum company that provides parents with online access to student textbooks, practice problems and reteaching tools.

Resource: <http://www.hotchalkeducationnetwork.com/parents-guide-to-urving-common-core-math/>

Elective Team

This 9 weeks, the **Elective Team** will focus on developing the literary skills needed to communicate effectively through writing and public speaking. The following are simple steps that students will be expected to do in their elective classes. We believe these simple steps will not only help students in their elective classes, but will help student be successful in all academic areas.

1. **Use Spell Check**-If a word is misspelled, the Chromebooks will highlight the word and then will make suggestions for the correct spelling.

2. **Write in Complete Sentences**- A quality sentence has a subject and verb, but also includes adjectives and adverbs. Be descriptive, don’t just write the bare minimum.

3. **Do Not Use Text Language**-idk, u, and lol are great to use when communicating with friends, but they aren’t appropriate to use when answering a question for a class.

4. **Reference the Text**-Most of the answers that teachers ask can be found in the reading materials that we are studying. We don’t expect you to be an expert on every subject on earth, but we do expect you to read and search for the answers. We provide Chromebooks with an endless amount of information, so let’s use them to learn something!

5. **Be a Superstar**-Don’t just write enough to get by, make it your goal to impress your teachers with all of your knowledge. A quality paragraph should have multiple sentences, shoot for at least 5.

Springfield Middle School

2016-2017 School Year

Parent Newsletter

Volume 1–November 8, 2016



5551 Wiggins Mill Rd, Lucama, NC 27851
Phone: 252-237-4250 Fax: 252-239-1686
Mr. Marcus Spells, Principal
Mrs. Wendy Daniel, Assistant Principal



We would like to share with you some websites that you might find useful. We are inviting you to take a look at these websites and read over them with your child. You can quiz them or make games with the information. Many websites have activities and games already:

- Ex: www.kidspast.com
www.ducksters.com
www.historyforkids.net
www.bbc.com/history/forkids
www.historynet.com

You may also look up study skills for kids so you can, also, teach them how to study. We are always here for you and your child. Just give us a call.

SOCIAL STUDIES AND HISTORY DEPT.

AVID stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination. In AVID we teach students ways to organize, study and prepare for the future. AVID in middle school is helping students look forward to high school, college and career. This fall we have taken field trips to ECU to help our students prepare for college. Students in the whole school are participating in AVID activities. If your student has a binder or an interactive notebook for a class they are working on organization skills. Parents you can help your child at

home by looking through their binder weekly or once a month to see how well they are organizing their schoolwork. Also discuss with your child your high school, college years and how you came to your current job or profession. Setting goals for the future start now. Any questions about AVID Contact Mrs. Katherine Alphin or Mrs. Sherry Edwards

Springfield Media Center

Parents at home please encourage your students to read. In the Springfield Media Center we have many resources to help your student read. Every month new books are made available for check out. This year with updates to our library software Destiny we will be increasing our ebook use and digital resource use. Many resources and programs are available for students at the Wilson County Public Library. Teen programs are held at the main branch on Nash Street in Wilson each month. Many books are available of interest to middle school students at the Lucama Branch and the bookmobile. Take time as a family to access these free resources available in Wilson County.

ELA—English Language Arts

Classes have many similarities across all three grade levels. In each grade, students are “digging deeper” by using close reading strategies to analyze a writer’s purpose, question an author’s decisions and claims, and communicate the author’s message by using textual evidence to support inferences. The best ways to assist your child with ELA at home are to have them read for an extended period of time each night, ask them to

explain what they are reading to you, have them read aloud, have them prove their points, and have them write (letters, journal entries, grocery lists, song lyrics, etc.). Middle school ELA is all about pushing students to take ownership of their opinions and statements by urging them to use evidence & reasoning. So, the next time you ask, “How was your day today?” you can no longer accept, “good,” as the response. “What made it good? Explain the best part.” You will be surprised at how much you learn from your child, and you might even spark up an interesting conversation.

Resources for Parents:

- <http://www.corestandards.org/>
[Parents' Guide for Grade 6](#)
[Parents' Guide for Grade 7](#)
[Parents' Guide for Grade 8](#)
<http://www.readwritethink.org/parent-afterschool-resources/grade/7-8/>
<http://freerice.com>

Science Tips For All Grades:

- 1.) *Help students develop and improve study skills (practice test, vocabulary cards, root word break down, etc.)*
- 2.) *Review grades in Powerschool and progress report and communicate with your student's teachers.*
- 3.) *Review interactive notebook and Google classroom daily.*
- 4.) *Continue to review notes even on nights without homework.*