



## **Report Card Day – Are You Prepared?**

Report card day can often be a stressful experience for both parents and students. Parents facing a child's poor report card find themselves disappointed by the results, and apprehensive about the best way to discuss failing grades with their child's teacher. Students feel discouraged if they've been struggling to do better, but are just not able to make the grades.

By following a few simple steps, parents can empower their child to bring home a report card that will make everyone proud of progress and accomplishments.

### **Communicate with your child.**

Don't wait until report cards are issued to talk to your child — by then, it's too late. From the first day of school, make sure your child knows there will be a real conversation about school every evening — not just a half-hearted attempt at discussion and one-word answers.

### **Establish a study plan with your child.**

Your child needs to develop regular study habits and to spend an adequate amount of time every day on doing homework and studying for tests. Be aware of your child's assignments, and observe whether your student is using time effectively to tackle homework and study. Encourage him to put forth his best effort and to persevere.

### **Get help immediately if you see a problem.**

Don't fall prey to your child's promise to do better. He may not be able to correct certain issues without help from the adults in his life.

### **Meet with your child's teachers.**

Keep an open line of communication with your child's teacher. Explore other resources offered by the school such as tutors, homework centers, classes outside the normal school day or online subject support. The link between school and home is vital.

### **Stay in touch with your child's school counselor.**

The link between home and school is vital. The school counselor can request periodic progress reports between grading periods, and set up conferences with teachers, parents and students when necessary.

### **Be sure to keep report cards in perspective.**



Remember that a report card is just one measure of how your child is doing at one particular time. While a report card is important, make sure you continue to motivate and encourage your child if he is doing well in other areas. Positive motivation from parents is a great way to build your child's self-esteem and can lead to successful grades down the road.