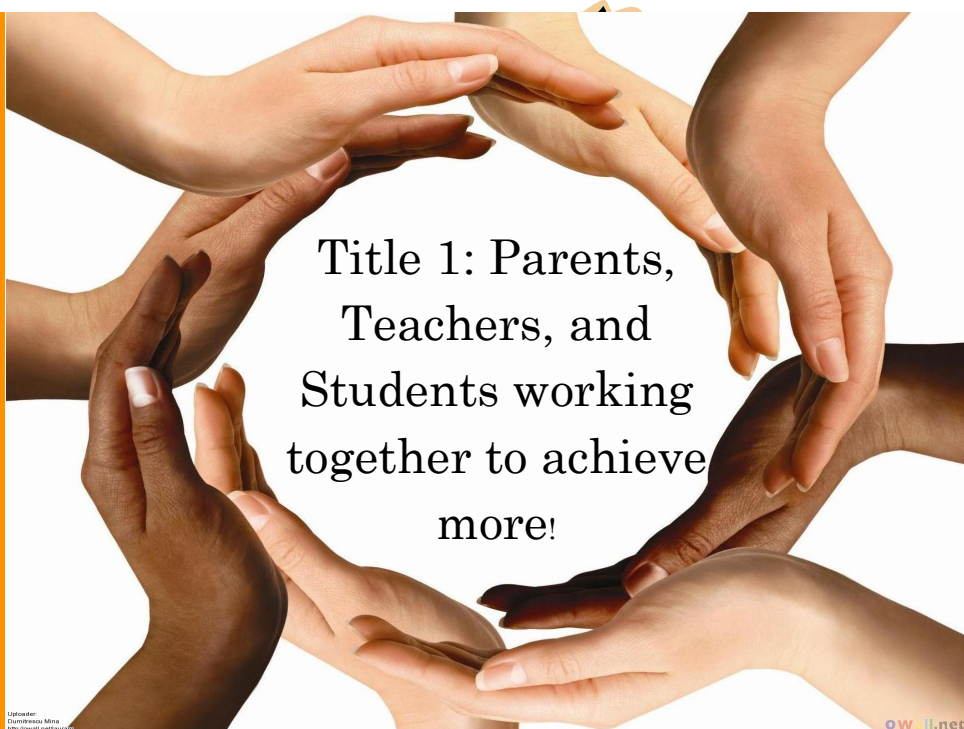




# Parents Matter

January 2013



Title 1: Parents,  
Teachers, and  
Students working  
together to achieve  
more!

Naumann Elementary School  
Title I Parent Newsletter

## Encourage Your Child to Set Goals

People who achieve great things in life don't succeed by accident. They know what they want to do, determine what it will take to do it and create a plan that will allow them to succeed. In other words, they set goals.

It's the same when it comes to success in school. Youngsters who set clear, measurable and achievable goals for themselves are more likely to experience success than youngsters who do not. Here are a few things you can do to help your child set—and meet—his goals:

- Make sure his goals are specific. It's not enough to say, "I'd like to do better in math." Instead, say, "I want to be able to solve two-step problems."
- Reinforce. Have your child write each goal on a piece of paper and post it where he can see it. This is one of the most important steps in turning a goal from a dream into reality.
- Help your child break each goal into a series of smaller, more achievable goals. Show him that goals are reached one step at a time. Don't let him focus only on the final result. Praise him for his progress each step of the way.
- Point out adult role models who have achieved similar goals—people who exhibit traits that your child can imitate.
- Provide support when the going gets rough. Children who set high goals for themselves are bound to encounter some obstacles. That's when they need a parent to say, "Keep your eyes on your goal. All of your hard work is worth it."

## Helping Your Child With Homework

### Get a Good Start at the End

The end of your child's school day is a time to wind down, but it is also a time to get started. These last few minutes are critical for preparing for her evening and the next morning. Following are some things you child should do at the end of the school day.

1. **Have a system for knowing what the homework assignments are each day.** Many teachers will post the night's homework each day. Your child can write the assignments down in an assignment notebook or daily agenda if they have one. Check for your child's homework assignments each day when they come home from school. If your child has a hard time remembering to write their homework assignment down or doesn't have anything written down, have them check with a classmate to make sure she knows the assignment. If there really isn't any homework assigned, have your child write "No Homework" rather than just leaving it blank.
2. **Make sure she has all the necessary materials for homework.** One quick easy way to do this is to give your child a set of stickers or self-stick notes to put on anything that has to go home that night. Another idea is to make a list throughout the day of materials to go home and check the off as she packs them.
3. **Pack materials.** Beginning in kindergarten, every student needs a backpack or sturdy bag to carry things between home and school. When at school, your child's backpack should stay in the same place (hook, cubby, or locker) until it's time to pack up. That way, she can quickly grab it, pack, and go at dismissal.
4. **Make sure the backpack gets home.** If your child walks or bikes home from school, the backpack should not leave her shoulders until she's in the door at home. If she goes by car, bus or other transportation, have her always ask herself, "Do I have my backpack?" as she is preparing to leave the vehicle.

## Homework Space

Your child will do her best work if she almost always does it in the same place. Her mind will associate that place with "buckling down" to study. Here are some ways to create an effective study spot.

- Have enough light so your child can read and write clearly and comfortably.
- Have the right noise level for your child (silence, soft music) and minimize distractions.
- Arrange an area that suits your child's learning style at a desk or table or some floor space that allows them to move around.
- Keep necessary tools at hand so that she has everything she needs to work without having to waste study time finding these items.
- Keep it neat. Have materials in the study area organized to eliminate study distractions and keep the focus on learning.

Questions? Concerns?

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