

Warriors' World

Abita Springs Middle School PTA Newsletter
PTA National School of Excellence

Donna Forrest - Principal

Rhonda Meyers - Assistant Principal

September 2010

PRINCIPALS' POST

Dear Parents and Guardians-

Successful students have good study habits, and here are some tips for your child to get a great start this year. . .

Try not to do too much studying at one time. If you try to do too much studying at one time, you will tire and your studying will not be very effective. Space the work you have to do over shorter periods of time. Taking short breaks will restore your mental energy.

- 1. Plan specific times for studying.** Study time is any time you are doing something related to schoolwork. It can be completing assigned reading, working on a paper or project, or studying for a test. Schedule specific times throughout the week for your study time.
- 2. Try to study at the same times each day.** Studying at the same times each day establishes a routine that becomes a regular part of your life, just like sleeping and eating. When a scheduled study time comes up during the day, you will be mentally prepared to begin studying.
- 3. Set specific goals for their study times.** Goals will help you stay focused and monitor your progress. Simply sitting down to study has little value. You must be very clear about what you want to accomplish during your study times.
- 4. Start studying when planned.** You may delay starting your studying because you don't like an assignment or think it is too hard. A delay in studying is called "procrastination." If you procrastinate for any reason, you will find it difficult to get everything done when you need to. You may rush to make up the time you wasted getting started, resulting in careless work and errors.
- 5. Work on the assignment they find most difficult first.** Your most difficult assignment will require the most effort. Start with your most difficult assignment since this is when you have the most mental energy.
- 6. Review their notes before beginning an assignment.** Reviewing your notes can help you make sure you are doing an assignment correctly. Also, your notes may include information that will help you complete an assignment.
- 7. Call another student when they have difficulty with an assignment.** This is a case where "two heads may be better than one."
- 8. Review their schoolwork over the weekend.** Yes, weekends should be fun time. But there is also time to do some review. This will help you be ready to go on Monday morning when another school week begins!

Remember, your child's teacher is a phone call or e-mail away. Keep in touch frequently and keep up with your child's progress.

Donna Forrest and Rhonda Meyers

PTA EXECUTIVE BOARD BULLETIN

Dear ASMS Parents and Teachers,

I would like to personally welcome you all back to the 2010-2011 school year! This is my first year with the "Warriors", and I am having fun making new friends and reconnecting with familiar faces. I encourage you all to do the same. Our school has so much to offer, providing our students with both top academics and fun extra-curriculars. I extend an invitation to one and all to join our PTA, so that every child can have a voice here at ASMS!

Our fundraising efforts with the Entertainment books have impressed our local sales representative, Ms. Tahmi Hawsey. She has provided ASMS with very cool incentives such as the alien hats and silly bands and the money machine. Thank you to all parents and teachers who have supported this endeavor. The money we raise from our fundraising touches each and every student at ASMS.

A big Thank You! to those from our school who gave blood to benefit Art Teacher Liz Perrin at the recent blood drive at the Town Hall. The first donor among the 130+ volunteers who came to give blood that day was our Head Custodian, Mr. George Gottchalk.

Please join us for our first General PTA meeting of the year on Thursday, September 16 at 6:00PM in the gym. It will be in conjunction with the ASMS Open House, and we look forward to seeing you there! The 2010-2011 school year is off to a great start and, with your help and support, will be the best one yet!

Sincerely,
Emily Achee, ASMS PTA President

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FINANCIALLY SPEAKING - PTA: Welcome back to school everyone! Even though it is just the start of the new school year the PTA and the students, parents, and staff at ASMS have been hard at work! The students have been busy shining those big bright salespeople smiles and selling the Entertainment Books to friends and family. As of August 24, 2010 we have already raised \$4,350.00, and the fundraising event isn't even over yet! I will update you on the final total at our September general meeting. Great job students! We have also collected over \$1,055.00 in membership dues and donations. Thank you to all of the supportive parents (grandparents, etc). Our expenditures so far this year have mainly been on providing the teachers with a special back to school breakfast and on District Training for the PTA Executive Board. Our expenditures so far have totaled \$236.00. On August 24, 2010 the balance in the PTA checking account was \$15,278.08. A detailed check register and year-to-date budget report will be provided at our September General PTA meeting.

Nichole Dupre, ASMS PTA Treasurer

\$\$\$ Quote of the Month \$\$\$

Let us not be satisfied with just giving money. Money is not enough, money can be got, but they need your hearts to love them. So, spread your love everywhere you go.

Mother Teresa

ABITA SPRINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL PTA OFFICERS - 2010/2011

President: Emily Achee, emdale@yahoo.com, 985 373-0068

Vice President: Dick Hastings, dickhastings@bellsouth.net, 985 237-4335

Secretary: Carla McManus, carlacorey@bellsouth.net, 985 264-7140

Treasurer: Nichole Dupre, r3nanda@aol.com, 985 871-7869

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OUR NEWSLETTER IS GOING GREEN!

Please enjoy this last paper copy of the Abita Springs Middle School monthly newsletter to be sent home with every student. Last year, over 43,000 sheets of paper were used to print our newsletter. We're not sure how many trees that represents, but we'd bet it's a lot, plus the ink and 5,400 staples. Around the first of October, visit our school's website at <http://abitaspringsmiddle.stpsb.org/> and look for the link to the new newsletter.

If you don't have internet access and would like to continue to receive a paper copy of the monthly newsletter, please send a note to school with your student, addressed to ASMS PTA, requesting a paper copy. Please include your student's name and homeroom teacher.

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YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE PTA!

All parents, grandparents, other relatives, and friends of students (as well as the students themselves) are invited to become members of the Abita Springs Middle School PTA. Your membership shows support of not only our school but of the work done by the PTA throughout the country. Dues are \$5.00 per person, and membership applications are available from the school office or from any of the officers listed above.

THANKS TO OUR PTA CORPORATE MEMBERS: PTA memberships received so far this school year include fifteen corporate memberships. The membership fee for a corporate membership is \$25.00. A benefit of corporate membership is a business-card size announcement in the PTA newsletter. We will be contacting each corporate member for the text to include in the remaining eight newsletters this year.

Solutions to Five Common Homework Challenges

By Jeanne Shay Schumm and Yvonne D. Perry

I'm sure you've heard it before:

"Mom, Dad, I didn't do my homework because you forgot to remind me."

"I left my assignment at school."

"The teacher didn't give me any homework."

"I can't do my homework because it's too hard."

Are you pulling your hair out yet? Wait. Before you become follically challenged, you should know that there are answers to your homework headaches.

The home-school relationship

The relationship between the home and the school is important. If you want your child to achieve academic success, you must become involved in the educational process. Here are some ways to develop a good attitude toward homework in your child and a high-quality relationship with your child's school:

Talk to your child about school. Does your child understand why he goes to school? Discuss how school is one way that children discover who they are and who they may become. Talk to your child about what he likes and dislikes about school and why. Let him know that he can always come to you with problems.

Communicate with your child's teacher. Plan to meet with the teacher at least three times a year to discuss your child's progress. Once a relationship is established, it is easier to examine difficult issues, if they arise.

Learn about the curriculum at your child's school. The more you know about what will be taught in the classroom, the better you will be able to help your child with homework.

Find out what the school or district homework policy is. It will take the guesswork out of determining whether or not your child has homework.

Homework challenges

Following are five challenges parents frequently face when working with their children to complete homework assignments, as well as suggested responses.

1) "My daughter forgets her homework on purpose so she won't have to do it."

This is a fairly common problem. What you choose to do depends on the reason your daughter is "forgetting" her homework:

Your daughter may not understand the importance of homework assignments. Quite often, children don't understand why homework is assigned or how doing it (or not doing it) affects their understanding of the material and their grades. Arrange for a meeting with your daughter, her teacher, and you. Ask the

teacher to explain the purpose for homework in his or her class, how it is scored, and how it factors into the final grade.

The homework may be too difficult. Confer with the teacher to determine whether your daughter is capable of handling the assignments. If she isn't, try to find out why. Is she having trouble paying attention in class or grasping new concepts? Does she need extra help? Let the teacher make suggestions, and don't hesitate to contribute suggestions of your own.

She may be seeking attention. Even negative attention-including displeasure and scolding-qualifies as attention. Let her know that if she brings her homework home, you will work with her to complete it. If she doesn't bring her homework home, you will be forced to take away some of the privileges she enjoys.

Your daughter may be just plain lazy. It's not very flattering, but it may be true. Start by requiring your daughter to record all of her assignments on an assignment sheet. Ask the teacher to initial the sheet daily to show that an assignment has been given, and also to initial it whenever homework is handed in. Insist on seeing the sheet every evening.

2) "My 5th-grader reads stories at home to prepare for reading tests, but he fails the tests every time."

A casual reading of a story may not be sufficient preparation for a reading test in the upper grades. Meet with your son's teacher to ask about the test format and to find out what types of errors your son is making. It may be that the test is based on skills learned in class rather than mastery of the content of the story.

3) "I work with my son on spelling words for at least an hour every Thursday night for the test on Friday. Yet he still fails his spelling tests! Our study sessions are tiring, tension producing, and obviously nonproductive."

Setting up a study schedule may help improve your son's test scores and make the study experience more enjoyable for both of you. Remember to keep sessions short-no more than 15 to 20 minutes. On Monday night, give your son a pretest of the entire list. Teach one-third of the words missed on the pretest. On Tuesday, test all the words learned to date, and teach the second one-third of the words missed on Monday's pretest. At the end of the session, test all the words learned so far. Repeat Tuesday's session on Wednesday, teaching the last third. On Thursday, test all the words learned to date. Practice the most difficult words, and test one last time. As you work with your child and study his behavior, you will find that he learns information best in certain ways. Does he learn best by seeing information, hearing information, or perhaps hearing information set to music or a beat? Does he need to touch, feel, or move as he learns? Once you know, you can use this information to help your child learn.

4) "My child knows how to form letters correctly, yet his papers are still a mess. He refuses to slow down and write neatly."

Tell your son that legible handwriting is a form of good manners. Let him know that tidy, readable writing makes a good first impression that lasts.

Try letting your son use a stopwatch or kitchen timer during his practice sessions. Encourage him to work quickly but neatly. Emphasize that it is possible to write rapidly yet legibly. When all else fails, have him rewrite messy homework. After doing this for a time, he'll probably come around.

5) "My daughter isn't in the highest reading group in her class, but she still has to use the same science book those students use. There is no way she can complete her assignments by herself; her reading skills aren't up to it."

If the text really is too difficult for your daughter, talk to the teacher. If the teacher insists that your daughter participate (and in most cases the teacher will), your daughter will need assistance to at least understand the concepts in the chapters. In this case, you will need to read the chapters to her.

No child functions well when she knows that her parents are disappointed in her. When feelings of anger and frustration overwhelm you when you are working with your child, take a break. Get a favorite book and read it aloud to your child. Your child can sense your mood, and your mood will affect her attitude and self-esteem. In the end, it is vital that our children understand that we love them and want the best for them.

Jeanne Shay Schumm, PhD, is the author of How to Help Your Child with Homework (Free Spirit, 2005), from which the content of this article was adapted. Yvonne Perry is an elementary school assistant principal in Miami, Florida.

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IMPORTANT SEPTEMBER DATES - ABITA SPRINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL

September 6 - Labor Day Holiday - no school

September 8 - Picture Day (for yearbook photos; instructions and order forms for those wishing to buy a photo package will be sent home in advance, with pre-payment required.)

September 16 - PTA Meeting starts at 6:00 pm in the Gym, followed by Open House and Parenting Night on Internet Safety. Teachers will also be available for parents to sign up for conferences.

September 16 - Sicily's Pizza Night (go to the Open House first!)

September 30 - Free Dress for Perfect Attendance

PBS REWARD FAIR - May 20, 2010



Although this event was at the end of last school year,
it's worth remembering at the start of this school year.



REFLECTIONS PROGRAM 2010 - ABITA SPRINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL

TEACHERS, ADMINISTRATION, PARENTS and STUDENTS - We are looking forward to working with you this year as a PTA. I hope that the info below will help you fit Reflections into your plans. **There will be current forms and details regarding the contests by Sept. 1st in the ASMS office waiting area file box.**

It is highly recommended to visit ptareflections.org where you can see great samples of past winners, plus all the gory details of requirements for the various categories.

Please use the student entry forms provided at school. It has some of the info filled out for you, and includes our school due dates and address and local PTA info.

As in years past, we hope that providing poster board, mat board, and other materials will encourage participation. Last year we had an incredible number of entries, and our students won a ton of awards, too! You know how much we appreciate you cheering the students on, whether is by assigning it or by reminding them of their talents. Please contact me with requests for materials.

Students are encouraged to create and submit works of art in any of the six categories: dance choreography, film production, literature, musical composition, photography, and the visual arts.

"TOGETHER WE CAN" is the theme this year.

The Abita Springs Middle School Reflections Due Date is Monday, November 1st.

Sample Judging Rubric

All entries should be judged on artistic merit, creativity, mastery of the medium, and, most heavily, interpretation of the theme.

Interpretation of Theme	How closely the piece relates to the theme, based on the artwork itself and the artist statement	5pts
Artistic Merit/Creativity	How creative and original the piece is in its conception of the theme and its presentation	3pts
Mastery of Medium	The level of skill demonstrated in the basic principles/ techniques of the arts area	2pts

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions: Yes, if this is assigned this as a class project, allow time to grade them before they are due for judging on November 1st. Yes, a student may enter in more than one category! ASMS can only send in one winning entry per student per category to the next level of district judging, but they can enter in a category more than once on the ASMS school level. Yes, we get the most entries in Visual Arts and Photography. You may want to consider also entering in another category to boost your chances to win!

VISUAL ARTS and PHOTOGRAPHY: No, do not sign your work on the front! Yes, your work will be disqualified if it exceeds size limits or is thicker than 3/8th inches. Yes, the artist's statement really is mandatory! Yes- photo collages are allowed. No, it is not mandatory to turn in entries for Photography in a mat board frame. Winning entries will be provided a mat if they don't have one. No, it is not mandatory for Visual Arts entries to be submitted on a mat board. Winning entries will be provided a sturdy cardboard mat if it is not submitted on one. No, you may not turn in canvases thicker than 3/8th". Yes, visual arts entries look great on 20" x 30" foam core board or mat board. Artwork can be done directly on them, or paper can be securely mounted on the foam core. No, you should not use full size poster board- it is too big!

FILM PRODUCTION: No, you can't make a long movie! Entries may not exceed 5 minutes.

I will be your Cultural Arts PTA contact. My email is bigmamalambert@bellsouth.net and my cell number is 373-7922. We are lucky to have our former PTA President, Julia Daniel, as our Cultural Arts District Chairperson, and she is also happy to answer questions at (985) 237-9772, (985) 892-9686 or danielsjj@bellsouth.net.

To get on our WARRIOR ART email list, contact Donnell Jenkins at asmswarriorart@yahoo.com. You will receive info about ASMS Cultural Arts opportunities and a class schedule of Art Classes with Ms. Kennan, who is accepting volunteers.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP IN DEVELOPING ABITA'S YOUNG ARTISTS- LOVE, RACHEL LAMBERT

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OUR STATUE AT SUNRISE



* Lunch served daily with choice of white or chocolate milk and whole wheat roll.

**Breakfast served daily with choice of white or chocolate milk and either apple or orange juice.*

		Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1	2	3
		<i>Beignets</i> Chicken Wrap Tortilla, Cheese, Lettuce, Banana Cinnamon Stick	<i>Sausage Biscuit</i> Chicken Tenders Salad Cheese Sticks Pineapples	<i>Cinnamon Roll</i> Hamburger Pattie, Lettuce, Carrot Sticks, Fresh Fruit, Oatmeal – Raisin Cookie
6	7	8	9	10
<i>off</i>	<i>Muffins</i> Beef Mexicali, Green Beans, Salad, Apple Wheels, Texas Toast	<i>Beignets</i> Pig in a Blanket (turkey) Baked Beans Peaches Brownie	<i>Cinnamon Roll</i> Gumbo, Carrot Sticks, Fresh Fruit, Rice	<i>Biscuit</i> Pizza, Corn, Fresh Fruit, Cinnamon Stick
13	14	15	16	17
<i>Breakfast Pizza</i> Red Beans w/ Brown rice, Sausage, Spinach, Apple Wheels, WG Cornbread	<i>Beignets</i> Tacos Cheese, lettuce, salsa Corn Peaches, Tortilla	<i>Muffins</i> Fried Catfish, Baked Potato, Fresh Fruit, Texas Toast,	<i>Sausage Biscuit</i> Chicken Tenders, Cheese Stick, Salad, Pineapples, Mashed Potato	<i>Cinnamon Roll</i> Hamburger, Lettuce, Carrot Stick, Banana, Oatmeal-Raisin Cookie
20	21	22	23	24
<i>Sausage Biscuit</i> Chicken Tenders Broccoli Mac-n-cheese Oranges	<i>Cinnamon Roll</i> Spaghetti, Green Beans, Salad, Apple Wheels, French Bread	<i>Beignets</i> Pig in a Blanket (turkey) Baked Beans Peaches Brownie	<i>Biscuit</i> Pork Roast, Carrot Sticks, Banana, Rice, Gravy	<i>Pancake/ Sausage Stick</i> Grilled Cheese, Celery Stick, Fresh Fruit, Cookie
27	28	29	30	
<i>Muffins</i> Red Beans, Spinach, Apple Wheels, Rice, WG Cornbread	<i>Beignets</i> Tacos, Shredded Cheese, Corn, Lettuce, Salsa, Peaches, Tortilla	<i>Sausage Biscuit</i> Chicken Wrap, Shredded Cheese, Lettuce, Banana, Tortilla, Cinnamon Stick	<i>Cinnamon Roll</i> Hamburger, Lettuce, Carrot Stick, Fresh Fruit, Cookie	

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