

## Hawkins County Schools

# Family Resources

### Love to Read

What can your child do every day this year that will help him improve in all subjects? Read!

In addition to expanding his vocabulary and increasing his knowledge, it's an activity he can enjoy throughout life. Here are ways to encourage reading.

#### **Create a reading friendly home**

Keep something to read in every room. You might put a basket of your youngster's favorite stories under a living room table, a box of magazines in the bathroom, and a stack of books on a kitchen counter. Everywhere your child goes, he'll be able to pick up something to read.

#### **Be a reading family**

Regular reading at home will help your child read school materials (handouts, textbooks) more easily. Set aside time each day to read to your youngster and for him to read on his own. Also, listen to him read to you, and let him see you reading. Make sure family members have library cards—and take regular trips to get new books.

Idea: Post "wish lists" of books your family wants to read. Then, cross off each one as you finish it.

#### **Match books to your child**

Familiar topics and likable characters can motivate your youngster to read. Ask a librarian or bookseller for suggestions. For instance, if science is his favorite subject, he might read science fiction novels like K. A. Applegate's *Animorphs* series or Jules Verne's *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*. A child who likes to tell jokes and be silly could try the *Mr. Men* and *Little Miss* books by Roger Hargreaves.♥

### **Talking about report cards**

**Q:** My daughter's mid-year report card comes home soon. What's the best way to go over it with her?

**A:** Start by finding out how your daughter feels about her grades. That way, you can follow her lead, and she'll learn to reflect on her work.

You might ask her which subjects she found easiest and hardest. Together, compare her current report card with the last one, and praise her efforts for grades that improved.

Then, ask your youngster about any marks that went down.

Discuss ways that she might do better next

time (review math facts daily, proofread writing). Also, call or e-mail the teacher about ways you can help your child at home.

About halfway through the next grading period, contact the teacher again to see how your youngster is doing in tough subjects — you'll avoid surprises on her next report card.♥

#### **January 2011**

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Happy New Year  
2011

### **Healthy Habits**

A good night's sleep can help your youngster stay alert in class and behave better—and that means she'll learn more. Try these tips for a well-rested child:

1. Set a regular bedtime so your youngster is used to going to sleep at the same time each night. Establish a comforting routine (bath, story, lights out) to help her wind down. Note: Elementary school children need 9–11 hours of sleep a night.

2. Tell your child it's okay if she doesn't fall asleep right away. Instead, suggest that she get cozy and rest until she feels tired.

Idea: Talk about what to do if she can't fall asleep (focus on something pleasant, play a silent word game such as thinking of a food or an animal that starts with each letter of the alphabet).♥

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## Part 2 of 3: Three A's For Student Success

### **Attendance Every Day, Achievement Every Year, Attainment Over Time**

Parents and caregivers are arguably the most influential people in a child's educational success. With nearly 1.3 million students dropping out of high school each year, the Annie E. Casey Foundation and America's Promise Alliance has identified three priorities that are critical to student success throughout a child's academic career. Known as the Three A's, parents should focus on these areas of their child's education:

**Attendance Every Day** : Ensure children go to school regularly

**Achievement Every Year** : Monitor and help children make satisfactory progress each year

**Attainment Over Time** : Set high expectations for children and plan for attaining their long-term goals

These three priorities were identified because each one is critical to student success throughout a child's academic career. Each one is heavily influenced by the actions and thinking of parents as well as educators, community-based providers and students themselves.

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#### **WHY SHOULD WE FOCUS ON ACHIEVEMENT?**

- Grade level achievement is critical to long-term success in college, work, and life.
- Parents play a critical role in helping their child to make satisfactory progress.
- Students especially depend upon their parents for ensuring their learning needs are met in and out of school and for monitoring their homework.

#### **HOW IS ACHIEVEMENT CONNECTED TO SUCCESS?**

- Reading proficiently by the end of 3rd grade is critical to students being able to read to learn in all of their subjects.
- A sixth grader who fails math or English, has an unsatisfactory behavior, or poor attendance has a 75% likelihood of dropping out.
- Freshmen in Chicago public schools who earn a B average or better have an 80% chance of finishing high school with at least a 3.0 GPA.

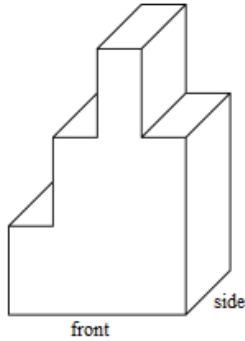
#### **WHAT PARENTS CAN DO TO PUT A FOCUS ON ACHIEVEMENT.**

- Think about the kind of educational program your child needs to learn and thrive, and seek placement in those classes which meet his or her needs.
- Know your child's teachers. Let teachers know that you want to be contacted immediately about any concerns.
- Attend parent-teacher conferences and regularly seek out information about your child's progress. Request a developmental assessment if a learning disability is suspected.
- Watch for signs that your child might be at risk.
- Use activities at home to develop their knowledge and skills, and utilize community resources (museums, libraries, youth centers) to create additional opportunities for learning.

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Old 5<sup>th</sup> Grade and 8<sup>th</sup> grade TCAP question

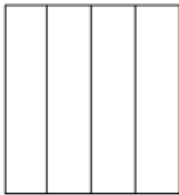
Front view



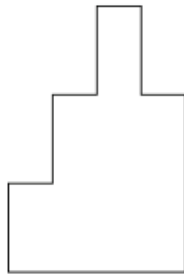
a.



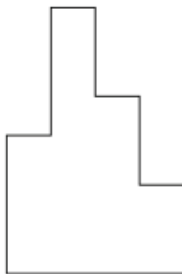
b.



c.



d.



Answer: D

NEW 8<sup>th</sup> Grade TCAP question

Mabel makes a solid figure that is 7 cubes long, 7 cubes high, and 7 cubes wide. She paints the outside of the figure green. How many of the cubes have 2 or more green faces?

- a. 24
- b. 64
- c. 48
- d. 30

Answer: C

Notice the change in the level of difficulty !!!

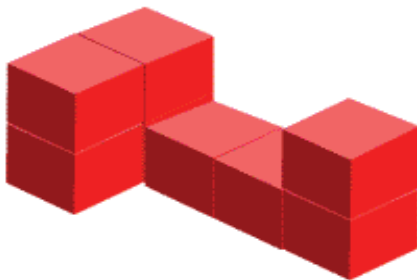
In the OLD example, the pictures were much simpler and the sides were labeled for them.

Now, in the new 5<sup>th</sup> grade question, the picture is more complex and the sides are no longer labeled.

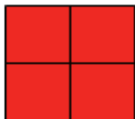
Further, in the NEW 8<sup>th</sup> grade question, there is no picture at all. Also notice the change in rigor. They are no longer just asking to identify a picture, now they have to problem solve to find how many cubes will have 2 or more sides painted green – a much deeper question.

NEW 5<sup>th</sup> Grade TCAP question

Choose the best answer.  
Choose the front view of the stacked cubes.



a.



b.



Answer: A

I hope this gives you some idea of how math is changing in the state of Tennessee.

Check out the newsletter each month for more curriculum updates. Also, visit the TN DOE website for more sample questions.

[http://www.tennessee.gov/education/assessment/sec\\_samplers.shtml](http://www.tennessee.gov/education/assessment/sec_samplers.shtml).

For any questions, please contact the Hawkins County Schools Math Specialist, Tara Harrell ([tara.harrell@hck12.net](mailto:tara.harrell@hck12.net)).

## Hawkins County Schools

200 N. Depot Street  
Rogersville, TN. 37857

423-272-7629



**Educate and Graduate  
Each Student**

## CHILD FIND

Local school systems provide services for special needs children and young adults, ages 3 years to 21 years, who reside within the system's district. If you have or know children who are currently not being served, please contact the Hawkins County Special Education Department at 272-2168.

## Parenting Classes

Hawkins County Schools Family Resource Center provides free services to families. Services include:

- ♦ Parenting Classes
  - ♦ Lending Library of parenting resources, videos, books, children's material
  - ♦ Food Pantry
  - ♦ Referrals to Community Agencies
- For more information, call 921-9621.

## Early Childhood

### Learning Program - PreK

Hawkins County Schools currently has four PreK classes. These programs are offered at Mooresburg Elementary, Mt. Carmel Elementary, Joseph Rogers Primary and at the Colonial Road location in Rogersville.

The mission of the Early Childhood Learning Center is to provide four-year-old children of Hawkins County with essential skills for success in kindergarten and beyond.

For more information, please call Kim Cassidy at (423) 272-3628.

## Adult Education

The Adult Education Department of Hawkins County Schools offers free services to adults including GED classes and test preparation. Day and evening classes are available. The Adult Ed Office is located behind Rogersville Middle school. For more information, please call 423-272-8345.

### GED Classes:

Volunteer High

Monday & Tuesday 5:30—8pm  
Rogersville Middle

Monday & Tuesday 3:30—7pm

Bulls Gap Baptist Church

Thursday 5:30pm—8pm

### Adult Education, & GED Classes

Adult Ed. Office

Monday—Friday 1pm—3pm

### English as a Second Language

Adult Ed. Office

Monday-Friday 12:30—2:30pm

### Hawkins County Health Department

201 Park Blvd., Rogersville 272-7641  
247 Silver Lake Rd., Church Hill 357-5341

Hours: 8:00am to 4:30pm

# January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>New parenting classes will begin at the Family Resource Center this month. Call for more information 921-9621.</b>						1
2	<b>3</b> Staff Development Day No Schools for Students	<b>4</b> Classes resume from Christmas Break Full day of school	5	6	7	8
9	10	<b>11</b> Report cards go home from 3rd six weeks and 1st semester	12	13	14	15
16	<b>17</b> No School Martin Luther King Jr. Day	18	19	20	21	22
<b>23</b> 30	<b>24</b> 31	25	<b>26</b> 100th Day Middle of the six weeks grading	27	28	29