

Family Resources

Hawkins County Schools

March 2010



Connecting Home and School to Educate and Graduate Each Student.

Why College- and Career-Ready Graduation requirements?

Tennessee Diploma Project

The average student is not thinking about their earning potential, which is why they need a parent or advocate who is. Some important facts to consider...

FACT: More than 75% of careers experiencing the highest growth require some college education.

Many jobs require more education and training than you might expect. Truck drivers, auto repair specialists, bus and transit drivers all require education beyond high school.

FACT: Employees with a college degree earned nearly twice as much as employees without a college degree, according to July 2009 Department of Labor findings.

FACT: 81% of Tennessee's jobs are middle- or high-skill (jobs that require some postsecondary education or training).

FACT: Yet only 30% of Tennessee adults have some postsecondary degree (associate's or higher).

The Tennessee Diploma Project puts in place college and career-ready standards so all Tennessee graduates have the qualifications to continue their education or find employment with a livable wage.

Parents can help their children understand the importance of an education and the opportunities it will provide them in the future. In addition, stress the importance of good attendance. Attendance habits start early in life and continue throughout a lifetime.

Parents can find out more information about the Tennessee Diploma Project by viewing the newsletters on the Hawkins County Webpage Parents section, www.hck12.net.



Stay Up to Date on the Changes to the School Calendar at www.hck12.net

Tue., Mar. 2

Mon., Mar. 15 – Fri., Mar. 19

Mon., Mar. 22

Fri., Apr. 2

Thurs., Apr. 8

Tue., Apr. 13 – Tue. Apr. 20

Thurs., Apr. 15

Tue., Apr. 20

Tue., May 4

Wed., May 5 – Fri., May 7

Wed., May 19

Tue., May 25

Wed., May 26

Thurs., May 27

Fri., May 28

**Regular School Day for Students – Make Up Day for Feb. 10
Parent/Teacher Conferences from 3:15 to 6:15 pm**

Spring Break – No School

120th day of School

Regular School Day—Snow makeup day

End of fifth six weeks grading period

TCAP Testing Grades 3– 8

Report Cards go home

140th day of school

Election – No School

High School AYP Exams for Math, English, & Science

160th day of school

Regular School Day – Full day

Required In-Service for Teachers 3:15 to 6:15 PM

Regular School Day for Students – Make Up Day for Feb. 11

Regular School Day – Full Day

Required In-Service for Teachers 3:15 to 6:15 PM

Last Day of School - Abbreviated Day

Make Up Day for Feb. 17

Students are dismissed after picking up report cards.

SHORT NOTES

Have courage

When your child is nervous about a class play or a doctor's appointment, remind her how she handled past situations bravely.

You might say, "Remember when you were afraid to read in front of the class, and then your teacher said you did a great job?" Taking pride in her courage will help her deal with new challenges.

Homework helper

Help your youngster make an instant homework station by folding a piece of poster board into thirds. He can set it up around him to block out distractions when he works. He can also tape handy information to it, like a multiplication table or a United States map.

Which way?

Use everyday conversations to improve your child's sense of direction. During an after-dinner walk, point out the sunset in the west. On the highway, show her road signs (Route 1 South). Idea: Have her make north, south, east, and west signs. Help her hang them on the correct walls in her bedroom.

Worth quoting

"Do not go where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path, and leave a trail."

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

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- Explore the new website endorsed by the Tennessee Department of Education, www.CollegeforTN.org
- The site has everything you need to know about how to make your child's path to college a clear and easy one.
- The site also includes **Paws in Jobland**, career fun for K-5 students.

Discipline Solutions

Does your child sometimes test the limits you set for him? It's easy to get frustrated when he doesn't listen to you. But having a clear plan for handling misbehavior can help you stay calm and get him back on track more quickly. Try these suggestions.

Communicate clearly. If you find yourself repeating instructions several times before your youngster "hears" you, try getting his attention first. You might gently touch him on the shoulder and say his name. When he makes eye contact, state exactly what you need him to do ("Please walk—don't run—in the house").

Explain rules. Your child will be more likely to follow rules if he understands the reasons for them. But trying to explain while he's misbehaving can lead to an argument. Instead, wait until he's calm. Then say, for instance, "You have to ask permission before you go outside so I know where you are." Also, let him know the consequence of breaking a rule (staying inside for 30 minutes).

Look for reasons. When your youngster has a day where he keeps getting into trouble, find out if something is bothering him. Example: "You seem out of sorts today. Do you want to talk about it?" Perhaps he argued with a friend or got a low grade on a book report. Talking about his problems lets him see that you care—and may help break the cycle of misbehavior.♥

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Is your family residing in a relative's or friend's home because you have nowhere else to go? Have you been evicted from your home or at risk of being evicted from your home? Do you feel that your home is substandard (without running water or electricity)? If so, we would like to help. Please contact the Hawkins County Schools' Homeless Coordinator at the Family Resource Center at 423-921-9621. We will try to help you locate housing and other resources and ensure that your child has everything they need for school.



TCAP TIME IN TENNESSEE

Spring is the time for standardized tests at many schools. If your youngster is taking one soon, share these tips:

- For multiple-choice items, suggest that she try to answer the question without looking at the responses first. Then, she can check to see if her choice is among the answers. If it is, it's probably correct. If she doesn't know an answer, she should guess. Chances are her first instinct will be right.

- On reading-comprehension sections (a passage followed by questions), suggest that she read the questions first. That way, she'll know what she's looking for when she reads the paragraph.

Tip: Encourage your youngster to try her best, but remind her that it's okay if she doesn't know all the answers.♥

Wonderful Words

A good vocabulary will help your youngster do better in all subjects. You can play these games to increase the number of words she knows and uses:

- ■ Teach your child to find words inside words. On separate sheets of paper, have each family member write his or her full name (first, middle, last). Set a timer for five minutes. See how many words players can make using the letters in their own names.

- ■ Stretch your youngster's thinking while teaching her about letter patterns. The first player says a word with four letters (late). The next person changes just one letter to make a new word (date). Continue playing as long as possible.

- ■ Help your child find interesting words in stories. Secretly choose a book she knows, write down 5–10 favorite words from the pages, and read the list to her. Can she guess the book? Talk about why you liked each word ("Suspect sounds sneaky, and the suspect in a mystery is sneaky") and what it means (someone accused of doing something). Then, let her select words from a book for you.♥

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PARENT POWER: Math at Home

Your home is a great place for you to begin to explore and "talk" mathematics with your child. Incorporating math activities and language into familiar daily routines will show your child how math works in his everyday life and provide him with a safe environment in which to take risks by trying new things.



Treasure Hunt: Kindergarten-Grade 1

Once children begin school, math-related activities at home can help to reinforce what they are learning about numbers and arithmetic operations such as addition and subtraction, as well as reinforce classification skills and mathematical reasoning.

What You Need

- Large container
- Buttons, bottle caps, old keys or any other small items that you can count

What to Do

As a rainy day activity, place the items in the container and give it to your child. Have him *sort* and classify items into piles: keys, buttons and so forth. Then have him explain how the items in each pile are *alike* and how they are *different*. For example, some buttons may be big and some small; some keys may be silver-colored and some gold-colored.

Have your child choose one of the piles and *organize the items in it by one characteristic*, such as length. Have him lay the items end to end then *compare and contrast* what he sees. For example, how many short keys? long keys?

Next, ask your child to use the items in another pile of items to *solve simple math problems*. Try problems such as the following:

If you have 10 bottle caps and give me two, how many bottle caps do you have left?

If you have three big buttons and three small ones, how many buttons do you have altogether?

Create activities that challenge your child to use *mathematical reasoning*. Ask him, for example, to look closely at items and answer questions such as the following:

Is a gold-colored key always heavier than a silver-colored one?

Do the big buttons always have more holes than the smaller ones?

Keeping the tone of math activities light will increase the likelihood that children will want to do them and make the activities seem less like "homework."

Fraction Action: Grades 2-3

In introducing children to the concept of *fractions*—numbers that aren't whole numbers (such as $1/2$, $1/3$ and $1/4$)—it's often a good idea to use objects that they can see and touch.

What You Need

- Large clear container (holding at least 2 cups)
- Masking tape
- Marker
- Measuring cups ($1/2$, $1/3$ or $1/4$ cup measure)
- Unpopped popcorn

What to Do

- Invite your child to help you make popcorn for the family. Begin by having her put a piece of masking tape from top to bottom on one side of the large container.

For younger children, use a $1/2$ cup measure. For older children, use a $1/3$ or $1/4$ cup measure. Choose the unit of measure and fill the measuring cup with popcorn. Give the cup to your child and ask her questions such as the following:

- How many whole cups do you think the container will hold?
- How many $1/2$ cups (or $1/3$ cups or $1/4$ cups) do you think it will hold?


Let your child pour the measured popcorn into the clear container. Have her continue to pour the same amount into the container until it is full. As she pours each equal amount, have her mark the level on the container by drawing a line on the tape. Then have her write the fraction, corresponding to the unit of measure on the line. After the container is full, have your child count up the total number of cup increments ($1/2$, $1/3$ or $1/4$) and compare it to her estimate from above. As you measure out the popcorn to pop, ask your child to answer questions such as the following:

- How many $1/2$ cups equal a cup? Two cups?
- How many $1/4$ cups equal $1/2$ cup? A whole cup?

- Pop the corn and enjoy!

Children may reasonably want to say, for example, that $1/4$ cup plus $1/4$ cup makes $2/4$ cups. Letting them work with measuring cups or other measuring devices can let them see that $2/4$ is the same as $1/2$.

March 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Regular School Day Parent—Teacher Conference Day 3:15—6:15	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11  Professional Services Appreciation Day	12	13
14	15 Spring Break No School	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	TCAP Testing Will Be Next Month: A change was made from the original calendar. The new dates for TCAP Testing for grades 3-8 will be April 13th—20th.		

Relative Caregiver

Support Group

If you are raising a grandchild or other family member, you are invited to join the Relative Caregiver Support Group. This group meets monthly as a way to network with others who are experiencing the unique situation of raising grandchildren or other related children.

Services offered:

- Respite and recreation opportunities
- Support groups
- Activity/Support groups for children and teens
- Educational workshops for children, teens, parents, and relative caregivers
- Emergency financial and/or start-up assistance for eligible families

For more information, please call Shannon Mason at 1-866-321-9111.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

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, please 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, 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.

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.



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.

Hawkins County Schools

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