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The mission statement of Oswego School District #308 includes the phrase “ensure each student develops the capacity to thrive as a successful, contributing citizen.” We want every student to have a successful school experience. When parents, teachers, and administrators work together, our students are the winners! Here are some ways you can help support Homestead staff in building your child’s confidence.

Be generous with praise. Observe your child carefully and comment on the things that are done well. When you see an area that needs improvement, find a positive way to talk about it with your child.

Encourage “personal best”: Help your child by encouraging him or her to do their best in school and at home. Remember, “personal best” does not mean “perfect”, and “learning” is not the same as “high grades.” Children, like adults, need the freedom to make mistakes and to learn from them.

Make learning a priority: Your attitude toward school attendance, education and involvement in the school makes a strong and lasting impression on your child. Show your child, by example, that learning is a priority.

Show interest in school work:

- Talk about each school day.
- Ask to see class work.
- Have your child read aloud to you.
- Read to and with your child from a variety of materials.
- Encourage your child to discuss new ideas and opinions.
- Show appreciation for good efforts.

Offer suggestions for success: Help your child use the following strategies to improve performance in school:

- Read the assignment when it is given.
- Keep a list of new vocabulary.
- Proofread assignments to catch errors before writing a final draft.
- Review notes before a test.

Schedule study time: Set up an area for homework away from noise and distractions. Post a family calendar that schedules school project deadlines, after-school activities, mid-term dates, exam periods and report card dates.

Support 100% attendance: Some kinds of absences are unavoidable, but taking students out of school unnecessarily is disruptive for learning.

Help set goals: At the beginning of each term, help your child identify two or three goals. Put the goals where they can be frequently seen. (The refrigerator is always a good spot.) Make sure the goals are specific.

Get involved: Attend school activities such as open houses, parent/teacher conferences and PTA meetings. When your children see you involved, they will also see education as a high priority.

Make direct contact with the school: Try to make early and positive contact with your child's teacher. We encourage you to phone your child's teacher whenever you have a question or concern. That conversation often clears up misunderstandings and miscommunications.

These few suggestions will continue to help provide the kind of environment that allows all of us, parents and staff, to ensure that your child develops the capacity to thrive as a successful, contributing citizen.

Remember to take some time to read with or to your child and play some math games on a daily basis!