

High School Tips for Parents to Support Student Success

Communication with Teachers

- **Update PowerSchool contact information.** Complete the form sent home in August. Contact Cathy Fields (cgfields@chathamcharter.org or 919.742.4550) if a change occurs later.

- **Talk with teachers as a semester begins to let them know your preferred contact method(s).**

- Email, phone, text, time(s) of day

- **Be proactive. Express your needs and be clear on teacher needs.** Administration becomes involved only after there has been repeated communication between teacher and parent/guardian.

- **Be proactive. Express your needs and be clear on teacher needs.**

- **Keep stress levels low.**

- If you notice your student being stressed about deadlines, ask key questions like:

- How long have you known about this assignment?

- What have you done before the night before it is due to gradually complete it?

- If you have multiple deadlines on a day, could you have paced better by doing one or some assignment(s) earlier?

- How have you spent your time at home over the past week? (Talking to friends, playing online, etc.?)

- If you are unclear on an assignment, did you ask the teacher for clarification?

- Contact the teacher(s) immediately to clearly understand assignment directions/deadlines.

- Don't let stress and/or disorganization levels escalate. Deal with them immediately.

Home Routine

- **Don't underestimate how much your child needs your involvement in the high school experience.**

- Our goal is post-high school preparedness, but young people need home and school support to develop those skills.

- **Set your expectations in August for homework completion.**

- How you will stay "in tune" with your student's assignments?

- Discuss starting and ending times for homework

- ***Promote strong organizational and time management skills.***
 - Be a good role model.
 - Help your child improve on areas of weakness.
 - Be active in ensuring your student does not get behind in any classes.
 - Make the most of “extra” times the high school has established:
 - “zero period” (before 7:45-8:45 AM) for tutoring, work completion, etc.
 - teacher office hours before and after school

- ***Be clear on your rules for time spent chatting with friends, playing games, and bedtimes.***
 - Be aware of what your child is doing online.

- ***Review PowerSchool grades at least once a week with your student.***
 - Consider having a set day to do so.
 - Click on the the current grade to see a list of assignments for the grading period.
 - Contact the teacher immediately if you have questions/concerns.

Stay Informed

- ***Read the “Hear Ye, Hear Ye” student announcements page.***
 - The high school uses minimal paper so announcements are posted online.

- ***Familiarize yourself with your student’s courses***
 - Each course has a syllabus that is shared with students at the beginning of the semester and posted on the “High School Info” page that semester.

- ***View your students’ assignments online.***
 - Teachers use online programs for lesson plans/assignments and share access with you.

- ***If you do not have Internet access at home, let staff know and they will make other arrangements with you to share online information.***

Student Absences

- ***Only if they must!*** A missed class in a 90-minute semester schedule is equal to missing four periods in middle school.
- ***Communicate with teachers.*** It is preferable that the student takes the lead in working ahead of time with teachers or communicates via email with teachers on the day of an unexpected absence.
- ***Make up work immediately.*** Students who struggle most are those who get behind on assignments, particularly after multiple absences.