Hugoton Middle School Weekly Bulletin

"Success isn't always about greatness. It's about consistency. Consistent hard work leads to success. Greatness will come."

Monday- April 25th-   • MS Cheer tryouts at 5:30PM
Tuesday- April 26th
Wednesday- April 27th Unplugged Focus: Humility   • Math MAPs test
Thursday- April 28th   • Math MAPs test
Friday- April 29th   • MS track HOME 9AM, no school at HMS, Come out and support our student athletes. If you want to help, PLEASE let me know.

WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR STUDENT AT HMS:

- Be sure to keep the iPad charged and ready for school the next day.
- Have conversations with your students about their assignments and grades.

Ponder THIS

Does it ever seem like we live in a world of extremes? Sometimes educators tell us, "The parents of some of our students spend absolutely no time involved in their children's educations. The end result is predictable: Their kids rarely achieve up to their potential."

Other times teachers say, "Some of our parents are so over-involved in their children's

homework, school assignments, and grades that their kids can't seem to function without someone doing most of the work for them."

Considering these extremes, perhaps it makes sense to compare and contrast healthy versus unhealthy parental involvement, understanding that the healthy variety is essential for high achievement.

Healthy parental involvement means being aware of your kid's assignments, asking questions about these assignments, and offering assistance if they ask for it. It means giving ideas and allowing them to do the lion's share of the work.

Unhealthy involvement means constantly reminding and rescuing, essentially taking more responsibility for their work than they do.

Healthy parental involvement means consistently allowing your kids to evaluate how they feel about their performance. This might sound like, "You have a 69% in music so far. How do you feel about that?" or asking, "You earned a 98% on that test. How does that leave you feeling?" Kids allowed to own the good and not-so-good feelings associated with their performance are more likely to understand and care about the connection between their personal effort and outcomes.

Unhealthy parental involvement means making it all about our feelings. This might go like, "That 69% in music is just not acceptable. You need to bring that grade up," or it may sound like, "You earned a 98% on that test. That makes me so happy. That's great!" When we make their grades about our feelings, we run the risk of stealing opportunities for them to think about how these grades personally affect them.

Healthy parental involvement means putting most of our energy into providing a healthy home where kids are loved, respected, and expected to complete chores. It's about creating a place where they get to experience an authentic relationship between cause and effect. In other words, they experience the gift of loving discipline.

Unhealthy parental involvement means spending so much time criticizing the school and rescuing our kids from their teachers that we have little time or energy left over to create a rock-solid home environment.

Healthy parental involvement means allowing our kids to overhear us talking with excitement about our own learning. It also means letting them overhear us saying positive things about their teachers and their school.

Unhealthy parental involvement involves providing plenty of lectures about how important education is while allowing our kids to overhear us gripe and complain about our own learning responsibilities and how subpar the school and teachers are.

Overall, healthy parental involvement means being good models. It means allowing kids to make mistakes. It means providing plenty of empathy. It definitely means remembering that raising kids who can think and learn for themselves is not for the faint of heart.

GCCC Field Trip: Creating a College Student