



Dear Parents,

Hopefully your family has been able to find some type of routine for elearning. If not, our school counselors have some suggestions to help you and your child finish strong! Your child will benefit from having routines and structure in place at home for getting assignments completed. We understand it will look different for each family, however we hope one or more of these suggestions will be beneficial to you.

Please feel free to reach out to one of our school counselors if you have questions or need additional support.

Mrs. Brenda Schwering (MES)      Mrs. Gayle Healy (MIS),  
Mrs. Tina Mutz (MHS)      Mrs. Schwing-Stamper (MMS and MHS)

**Ideas:**

1. Have a space in the house designated for schoolwork.
2. Encourage your children to be independent workers and take charge of their work. Don't wait until something is almost due to ask for help. Be Proactive (*Habit 1*)
3. Have a specific time to work on assignments. Most students are more focused in the morning, but if they need your help you might have them do what they can in the morning and schedule time with them after your workday. Put First Things First (*Habit 3*).
4. Use a checklist/planner to help them organize what they need to do and when. Working on this together with them will help you synergize a solution. (*Habit 6*)
5. Set goals to help them accomplish their work. Begin With the End in Mind (*Habit 2*)
6. Give rewards (extra free time, special activity with family, etc.) after a task is completed or after they are all done. (You might get the child's input on what motivates them.) Sharpen the Saw (*Habit 7*)
7. Use verbal praise, high fives, and other forms of encouragement whenever you can to show support and interest.
8. Feeling frustrated or overwhelmed, take a brain break (10 minutes) and come back to it with a new outlook. (Breathe, music, meditate, etc.)
9. Take a study break! Don't just sit at the computer. Your eyes need a break (which includes video games too, if that's your favorite break) and your legs need to move. (*Habit 7*)
10. Be sure to be a good digital citizen. Be kind while you're online, give credit to your sources, and stick to the websites and apps that your teachers suggest.
11. Finally, have patience with yourself, your classmates, your family, and your teacher. This is new to all of us. (*Habit 5*)



**An example from one of our Milan parents:**

Tuesday/Thursdays - Student knows that he is not permitted to get on Xbox or Youtube until he has completed all of his Core classes. This student is allowed breaks but is not permitted electronics until all core assignments are complete. (The parents have found that this motivates the child to get most of it done first thing in the morning. He rarely finishes everything, but he is finding other ways to entertain himself other than electronics (plays with siblings, goes outside, etc.) So that is a "Win/Win" (Habit 4) because even when he doesn't want to work on his lessons, he is getting more meaningful play.)

**More examples:**

With younger kids who are more reliant on you and can't read on their own, it will take more of your time to help them. Also, it can be challenging working from home because you need to balance your work and helping them. It might be easier to incorporate these assignments with outdoor play when you have time.

For high school students, have them select their favorite subject and complete all those assignments first. Then have them select their next favorite and complete all of those assignments and so on. Encourage your child to reach out to their teachers by email for help since the content might be more difficult.

Here are two free webinars from a site that might help as well

Thursday, April 23: [Homeschooling your kids? Learn how to use our weekly math learning plans](#) (1:30 PT / 4:30 ET)

Wednesday, April 29: [How to motivate and engage your kids in learning](#) (3 PM PT / 6 PM ET)