LINCOLN PK-8 NEWSLETTER



WELCOME BACK - 2019

Welcome back to a new year!! We hope you had a relaxing winter break. Now it is time to get back into the daily routines and finish the second half of the school year. This is a great time to focus on learning and students becoming the best they can be. Please make sure to check folders and ProgressBook regularly to ensure your child is staying on track. Thank you for your continued support!



BOOST READING!!! Tips For Parents & Guardians:

*Read at home—Reading regularly at home provides children with the practice they need to become great readers. Remember, "The more kids read, the better they read."

*Make a special reading spot—Choosing a special reading spot for children to read with adults is not only fun, but is also a great way to create a distraction-free zone where children can concentrate.

*Be a great reading partner—It's no fun to read when you're forced to or feel embarrassed and ashamed to read. Give positive feedback and tell the reader they're doing a great job.

*Set a good example; be caught in the act! - If a child observes his or her parent/guardian reading every night, then that child will emulate the same behavior.

*Communicate with teachers—Knowing what goes on in the classroom and during the school day helps parents relate to their child's experiences, sparking conversations and an interest in school activities.

*Be enthusiastic—Showing genuine excitement for childrens' reading skills will encourage them to become great readers. Show them that reading can be fun, and they'll get excited about reading time.

In summary, please read with your child EVERY DAY, talk about their learning, and let them know how proud you are of their hard work.

Incredibles—THANKS!!!

We had a fabulous *Incredibles Christmas*—thanks to the phenomenal generosity and hard work of Rust City Church staff and members. They provided cookies, an Incredibles live performance, pictures with characters, and snack bags to watch during the <u>Incredibles 2</u> movie. Behind the scenes, they provided a special day for staff too with treats and gifts in our Library. AND, thanks, also, to the <u>Lincoln Incredible kids</u> (and families) for their canned good donations and gestures of thanks given to maintenance, food service, and other school personnel. It was truly a spirit of giving to and appreciating others. We witnessed INCREDIBLE kids can truly do incredible things!

www.warrenschools.k12.oh.us

Parent-Teacher Conferences:

Jan. 29 & 31

4-7 pm

We want to see you!



Dr. Martin Luther King Day is Monday, January 21—No School.



Lincoln Rock Stars are W.A.R.R.E.N. Strong!

Work Ethic

Accountability

Respect

Responsibility

Effective Behaviors

No Excuses

January K-5 SEL Focus:

*Cooperation and Assertiveness

(further information available in the Academic Updates on our webpage)



LINCOLN PK-8

MRS. PYTLIK MRS. BURNS MR. DESANTIS MRS. LATESSA MRS. MARINO

PK-2 PRINCIPAL
3-5 PRINCIPAL
6-8 PRINCIPAL
SPECIAL EDUCATION
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

2253 Atlantic Avenue, NE Warren, OH 44483

Phone: 330-373-4500 Fax: 330-373-4511



January 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		NO SCHOOL	BACK TO SCHOOL	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 Early Release End of 2nd 9 weeks End of 1st Semester	12
13	14	15	16	17 1st Grade Family Day—10:00 AM 6th Grade Family Game Night 5:30-7:30 PM	Report Cards Mailed out	19
20	NO School M.L.	22	23 Spelling Bee 3-5 @ 9:30 AM 6-8 12:30 PM	24	25	26
27	28 te	Conferences 4-7 PM	30	Conferences 4-7 PM		A TEACHER OPENS MINDS AND TOUCHES HEARTS

Counselor's Corner---January 2019

Mrs. Jodi Austin-Brown jodi.a.brown@neomin.org

Mrs. Barbara Guliano MS Ed. LSC barbara.guliano@neomin.org (330) 373-4500 x 4112

January 24 is "Compliment Day"

This day is a great opportunity to say something positive about the people you come in contact with. Everyone has good attributes...that's right...everyone. It's a cinch to find compliments for family and loved ones. Friends are friends because you see something good about them. It's more challenging to compliment people you don't like. Take up the challenge, and find a compliment for them, today, too. Remember: "If you don't have anything nice to say, don't say anything".



And now we welcome the New Year. Full of things that have never been.

--Rainer Maria Rilke

"None of us get through life Alone. We all have to look out for each other and lift each other up."

Hillary Rodham Clinton

Here are 10 simple steps to Enhance Parenting Skills

- 1. Boost your child's self-esteem.
- 2. Catch kids being good.
- 3. Set limits and be consistent with your discipline.
- 4. Make time for your kids.
- 5. Be a good role model.
- 6. Make communication a priority.
- 7. Be flexible and willing to adjust your parenting style.
- 8. Show that your love is unconditional.
- 9. Know your own needs and limitations as a parent.
- 10. Seek help when needed.





Counselor's Corner-January 2019

Mrs. Trisha DiCesare MS Ed. LSC (330) 373-4500 x.4241 trish.dicesare@neomin.org

January 24th is NATIONAL COMPLIMENT DAY! ... A compliment has a powerful effect. It can instill confidence in a child, or validate someone's hard work. A compliment not only improves the receiver's mood, but it also says something about the giver. It tells them you noticed. So be sure to hand out those compliments on this day and others!



What's happening in the classrooms?



LAST MONTH

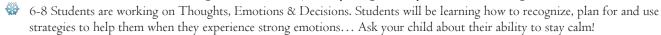


5th Grade students talked about **"Kindness & Safety"** ... Ask your child about how they share kindness!



THIS MONTH....







THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR....

6-8 students are continuing work in the Naviance Curriculum to prepare them for college and career readiness!

TH -8TH Grades continue to receive lessons on drug education through our partnership with COMPASS.

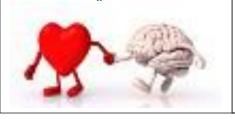
Assertiveness is the "healthiest style of communication. Assertiveness involves recognizing and standing up for our own rights, while at the same time recognizing and respecting the rights of others."

We can use many opportunities to tech our kids directly by helping them figure out situations as they come up. Modeling appropriate responses that allow their opinions to be voiced while keeping in mind to respect others opinions as well. Try asking your child how they handle difficult situations at school, with friends or siblings.

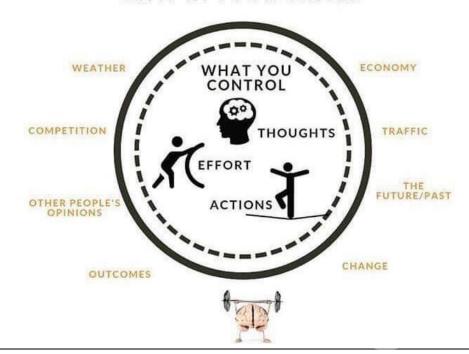
Use this question as a starting point to crafting assertive responses and understanding others perspectives.

There are numerous appropriate techniques teens can use to express their feelings:

- Write about their feelings.
- Express their feelings through
- Music helps many teens both realize and express their feelings.
- Physical activity can be productive in helping them release their feelings.
- Crying is very beneficial at times; teens should know it's okay to cry.
- Talking and processing emotions with someone trusted can be helpful for both releasing feelings and gaining perspective.
- Sometimes they need to take some pressure off of themselves and "just be." This should be allowed and encouraged.



STAY IN YOUR CIRCLE



Choosing to be Proactive rather than Reactive is key!

- **Reactive** people tend to have a LARGE circle of concern and a small circle of control. A lot of time and energy is wasted reacting to issues that they can't controlled.
- <u>Proactive</u> people tend to have a small circle of concern and a LARGE circle of control. A lot of time and energy is focused on issues that are within their control.

WHICH ONE DO YOU CHOOSE TO FOLLOW?

Warren City Schools http://www.warrenschools.k12.oh.us

Bring out the leader inside your elementary schooler

Children who are leaders at school develop important skills, such as problem-solving, communication and responsibility. These students are often self-confident, creative, helpful and friendly. That makes their classmates want to work with them.

All children have the ability to become leaders. To nurture your child's leadership skills:

• Point out leaders of all kinds.

Talk about successful group efforts, from winning football seasons to community food drives. Remind your child that someone led those groups. Discuss what makes a good leader.



- **Teach her to look at things** from other people's points of view. Good leaders aren't bossy or mean. They make people want to work together.
- **Offer her leadership opportunities.** Athletic teams, clubs, Scouts and many other activities can provide chances for your child to lead. At home, let your child lead a family meeting or manage a family project.
- **Don't push.** Too much pressure can backfire. If your child seems stressed or unhappy, it's time to lighten up.
- **Set an example.** When you take a leadership role, talk to your child about what you are doing and why.

Source: "Leadership and children," Better Kid Care, PennState Extension, niswc.com/lead.



Be a reading role model for your child

The best way to show your child that reading matters to you is to let him see you reading every day. Be sure to:

- Make it clear that you choose to read. Pick up books, newspapers and magazines whenever you get the chance.
- **Explain the purpose.** Are you reading to find out information? To double-check something? To learn how to do something? Or just for pure enjoyment?
- **Look up words** you are unsure of in the dictionary. Ask your child if he knows the meanings.
- **Share.** When you come across something that would interest your child, read a small part of it aloud to him. He may be motivated to continue reading the rest to himself.
- Join him when he reads.
 Grab something you'd like to read and enjoy the time together. Look for ways to make it fun—turn off the lights and have everyone read by flashlight, for example.

Improve conversations with observations

Greeting your child in the afternoon with questions about school can shut down the conversation fast. Instead, take time to look at the schoolwork she brings home. Offer several observations about what you see—what you remember liking about the topic, what it reminds you of, etc. Only then, ask, "What did you learn about this today?"

To see symmetry, fold here

Fold a picture of a butterfly in half, and the two sides match up. That means the butterfly is *symmetrical*. The fold line is the *line of symmetry*. Lines of symmetry can be vertical, horizontal—even diagonal.

Go on a symmetry hunt with your child. When he finds an item he thinks is symmetrical, have him:



- **1. Take** or draw a picture of it.
- **2. Predict** where the line of symmetry will be. (There may be more than one!)
- **3. Fold** his picture along the line. If the sides match, he's right!

Offer tips, not answers

Some kids arrive at a hard question in their homework and immediately look to parents for help. Instead of providing answers, help your child learn how to find them herself:

- **1. Have her skip** the difficult question and answer all the others that she can. Then she should think again about the one she skipped. It may be clearer now.
- **2. Ask,** "Where could you find out about that? Was there a class handout?" Show her how to use resources like the encyclopedia, too.







Is it a good idea to offer money for good grades?

Q: My son gets average grades, but I know he could do better. Should I pay him for top grades?

A: It's natural to want your child to live up to his potential. While researchers have experimented with paying students for performance, the results don't show much long-term benefit. And there are some serious drawbacks to this kind of incentive



Paying for grades:

- **Deprives your child** of the satisfaction of learning for its own sake. Mastering new skills and learning new things gives kids confidence in themselves and their abilities as students. When you pay your child for grades, you run the risk of decreasing his self-confidence.
- **Ignores effort.** If your child is giving his best effort, neither of you should worry if he earns a B instead of an A. And if he's trying hard and earns a low grade, you know that it's time to consult the teacher about how to help your child.
- **Reduces internal motivation.** A love of learning will always motivate your child. But paying him shifts his focus to the money. And he's more likely to put his hand out every time he's asked to do something.

Instead of offering cash, help your child build his study skills and focus on what he is learning. Encourage him to recognize and be proud of his new abilities. And praise him for working hard and doing his best.



Are you encouraging resilience?

Failure is scary for kids—and parents. But learning how to bounce back from a failure is a valuable lesson. Are you teaching your child that failure isn't the end of the world? Answer *yes* or *no* to the questions below:

- ___**1. Do you allow** your child to solve problems on her own, even if she may fail?
- **__2. Do you encourage** her to think about what she can do differently next time, when things don't go right?
- ____**3. Do you admit** your own failures, and talk about how to fix them?
- ___**4. Do you help** your child put setbacks into perspective? "You didn't ace your test, but you earned a higher grade than last time!"

_5. Do you teach her to win graciously and lose cheerfully?

How well are you doing?

More yes answers mean you are showing your child how to rebound from failure. For each no, try that idea.

"With the new day

comes new strength

thoughts."

and new thoughts."

—Eleanor Roosevelt

The new year is a new chance to achieve goals

If your child set some goals in September, but didn't really follow through, January is the perfect time to start again. To make this the year your child learns how to achieve his goals, encourage him to:

- **1. State** his goal. Have your child write it down and post it where he will see it.
- **2. Plan** how to meet the goal. What specific steps will he take?
- **3. Talk** about the goal with others. This builds commitment. Have your child tell the teacher his goal.
- **4. Carry out** his plan, one step at a time. If problems arise, your child can discuss possible solutions with you.

Review the rules together

Sometimes children get in trouble at school because they don't remember the rules. Review the school rules with your child. Talk about how they are needed to keep the school a safe, peaceful and orderly place where kids can learn. Let your child know that you expect her to follow the rules.

Stay flexible when your child solves problems

When you find yourself stuck in traffic, you can sometimes choose another route. Getting to your destination matters more than which road you take.



When your child has a problem to solve, instead of giving him a road map (first do this, then do that), remind him of his destination: "You need to find a way to finish your report even though your classmate has the book you need." He may not select the solution you would. But if he arrives at his destination honestly, let the solution stand.

Helping Children Learn®

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Daily Learning Planner

Ideas parents can use to help children do well in school

Warren City Schools http://www.warrenschools.k12.oh.us



January 2019

- ☐ 1. With your child, invent a special holiday just for your family.
- 2. Encourage your child to start a journal this year.
- ☐ 3. Have your child name a food she loves. Help her learn more about where it comes from.
- 4. Make an appointment to spend some one-on-one time with your child this month. Write it on your calendar.
- ☐ 5. Ask your child to help you plan three healthy breakfasts.
- ☐ 6. Encourage your child to be a critical TV viewer. Watch programs with him and ask questions like, "Why do you think the character did that?"
- 7. Play a card game such as Go Fish with your child.
- 8. If you don't have time to read to your child at night, read in the morning instead. It's a real "power breakfast."
- ☐ 9. What is your child's favorite time of year? What does she like about it?
- ☐ 10. Have your child draw something that happened in school today. Then talk about it.
- ☐ 11. Ask your child about the qualities he looks for in friends. Talk about why *values* are important.
- ☐ 12. Have your child help you organize something, such as a closet.
- 13. Compliment your child on a recent accomplishment.
- ☐ 14. Model good manners for your child. Say, "Please pass the ..." and "Thank you very much."
- ☐ 15. Watch a funny video with your child. Then have her draw a comic strip showing what it was about.
- ☐ 16. Pick a category, such as colors. Have your child pick a letter. How many colors can you each name that begin with that letter?

Daily Learning Planner: Ideas Parents Can Use to Help Children Do Well in School—Try a New Idea Every Day!

- 17. Help your child record herself reading a story.
- ☐ 18. Watch a TV show with the sound off. Ask family members to make up the dialogue.
- ☐ 19. Teach your child to make paper snowflakes.
- ☐ 20. Encourage your child to sort his books by subject.
- 21. Help your child make an "I am special" scrapbook. Add photos and mementos throughout the year.
- 22. Ask your child to measure the dimensions of objects in your house. How many six-inch long items can she find?
- 23. Pretend to go back in time with your child. Reenact an event together.
- 24. Ask your child to help you do a household chore today. Remember to thank him when he finishes.
- 25. Plan a weekend activity the whole family will enjoy.
- 26. In the car, ask your child to add up the numbers on the license plates she sees.
- 27. Have family members try doing activities with the hand they *don't* favor.
- ☐ 28. Teach your child how to sew on a button.
- 29. Allow a few minutes after the light is off at bedtime for quiet conversation with your child.
- ☐ 30. Have your child teach you something he is learning in school.
- ☐ 31. Read a story to your child. Later, ask her to retell it from memory.



Warren City Schools http://www.warrenschools.k12.oh.us

Teach your child strategies for improving reading comprehension

Reading comprehension is much more than being able to recognize the words in a passage. It means understanding the meaning of the passage as a whole. In middle school, your child's ability to comprehend and think about what he reads has a significant effect on his academic success.

To strengthen your child's reading comprehension, encourage him to:

- **Read often.** The more your child reads, the easier reading will become for him. And the easier it
 - become for him. And the easier it becomes, the more energy and interest he'll have left over to focus on the meaning of what he reads.
- **Create links to things he already knows.** When your child reads something that reminds him of something he has learned, seen or done, the material has meaning. To reinforce these links, suggest that your child mark the passages with a sticky note saying what they remind him of.
- **Ask thinking questions** before, during and after he reads. For example, he might ask: What do I hope to learn from this? What kind of personality does the main character have? What do I think will happen? How is this different from what I expected? As he comes across passages that relate to his questions, he can add more sticky notes with thoughts about his answers.

Source: J. Willis, "Aiding Reading Comprehension With Post-its," Edutopia, niswc.com/stickyread.



Coach your child to school success

By January, most middle schoolers can use some guidance, encouragement and inspiration to keep doing their best in school. Think of yourself as your child's academic coach. To support and motivate her:

- Talk about what she is learning.
 Grades are important, but the real point of education is knowledge.
 Emphasize the learning process.
 This includes responsible effort, persistence and improvement.
- Act as a resource. When your child studies, be available whenever you can to answer questions and offer suggestions on where to find the information she needs, such as in her textbook.
- **Accept** that there will be times when you can't answer your child's questions. It's OK to say, "I don't know. Are there any hints on the class website?"
- **Understand** that your child has strengths and weaknesses. Support and encourage her in every subject, but don't expect the same results in every class.

Source: K.T. Alvy, Ph.D., *The Positive Parent*, Teachers College Press.

Foster school friendships

Forming friendships with other kids at school can help your child feel more connected to school. The strongest friendships, however, often

involve spending time together outside of school. If your child has been



eating lunch with the same four boys for the last month, encourage him to ask them to your home to hang out. Or perhaps you could offer to drive them to the movies.

Translate science into life

Science is all around us all the time. To encourage your child to notice, help her translate science terms into middle school experience. In physics, for example:

- **Rest** is the state of the book your child has dropped on the floor—not moving.
- Inertia is what's keeping her from moving to pick the book up.



• **Force** is the energy it will take for her to get up and put the book away.

Source: D. and C. Johnson, *Homework Heroes, Grades 6-8*, Kaplan Publishing.

Give your child a blueprint for better paragraphs

Paragraphs are the basic structural elements of writing. Once a student knows how to build paragraphs, writing a paper isn't quite as overwhelming. To construct a strong paragraph, your child should:

- **1. Write a topic sentence** that says what the paragraph will be about.
- **2. Include details** that support the topic sentence.
- **3. Read the paragraph** out loud to see if all the sentences relate to the topic and make sense together.
- **4. Proofread** spelling and grammar.





What can I do to help my child get back on track?

Q: The first half of the school year didn't go very well for my seventh grader. Her grades were lower than we both would have liked. How can I make sure she does better in the second half?

A: Encourage your daughter to look at the new calendar year as a fresh start. To promote positive school habits:

- Help her set appropriate goals.
 You can't expect your child to turn
 the year around overnight. For goals to be motivating, they should be
 attainable. For example, if she slacked off on finishing assignments, she
 can strive to complete them all on time.
- **Insist on a regular homework time.** If your child is freshest right after school, then make that her work time. If she needs a little downtime first, give her an hour before having her crack open the books.
- **Monitor her progress.** Don't wait until your child fails a quiz to discover she's struggling in a class. Talk often with your child about what she's learning, and stay in contact with her teachers.
- **Recognize signs of improvement.** Is your daughter more organized? Is she making schoolwork a priority? Congratulate her. When you do, avoid bringing up her past habits. She already knows she made mistakes; there's no reason to remind her of them.



Are you encouraging careful work?

Careless mistakes are the downfall of many middle school students. Are you emphasizing the importance of doing thorough, accurate work? Answer *yes* or *no* to the questions below:

- __**1. Do you remind** your child to pay attention to details, such as putting his name and the correct date on papers?
- **2. Do you encourage** your child to double-check his answers before submitting work?
- ____**3. Do you reinforce** the concept that "neatness counts," both at home and at school?
- __4. Do you suggest that your child include time for editing and proofreading when he plans his time for projects?

____**5. Do you review** your child's finished work with him to ensure it is neat and complete?

How well are you doing?

More yes answers mean you are helping your child produce work he can be proud of. For each no, try that idea.

"It's the little details

"It's the little details

that are vital. Little

things make big

things happen."

John Wooden

Snuff out inhalant abuse

According to a national survey, abuse of inhalants is on the rise again after years of decline. Inhalants—including household products like glue, nail polish remover and canned whipped cream—are abused by eighth graders more than any other group. To deter your child from abusing inhalants:

- **Talk about the dangers.** Fewer eighth graders now see inhalant use as very risky. But these drugs can cause serious health problems, including death—even the first time they are used.
- Make healthy living a family priority.
- Switch to non-aerosol products, and keep paints, solvents and similar items locked up.

Source: L.D. Johnston and others, "Monitoring the Future: Key Findings on Adolescent Drug Use," National Institute on Drug Abuse, niswc.com/noinhale.

Reward conduct with praise

When your child earns a good grade or makes a great play on the sports field, it's appropriate to praise his accomplishment. But be sure you also praise your child for demonstrating good character. Compliment his kindness and his sense of responsibility. Applaud him for not giving up, even when the going gets tough.

Bolster vocabulary growth

The greater your child's vocabulary, the more she will understand higher-level reading, conversation and thinking. Encourage your child to:

- Read something a little above her level every so often.
- **Practice.** New words your child encounters won't stick if she doesn't use them.
- Speak with adults. Be careful not to do the talking for her!

Helping Students Learn®

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PARENT NITUIE

January 2019

- ☐ 1. Have your child write down learning resolutions for the coming year.

 Make some for yourself, as well.
- 2. Together, make a list of the best low-cost activities you did during the last year. Schedule time on the calendar to do them again this year.
- 3. Celebrate your child's accomplishments when he achieves a goal.
- 4. Ask your child, "What do you wish we did differently at home?" Be open to suggestions.
- ☐ 5. Ask your child to recommend a book for you to read.
- ☐ 6. Let your child take over a responsibility you've previously done for her.
- ☐ 7. Pause when you talk with your child. Silences allow time to think.
- 8. Have your child solve a personal math problem: "How many days have you been alive?"
- 9. Does your child hate to lose? Tell him that trying is more important than winning.
- ☐ 10. Do something you and your child have never done before. Try a new food. Listen to a new type of music. Visit a new place.
- 11. Write your child a letter about how wonderful you think she is.
- ☐ 12. Read an article from the newspaper together. Discuss your opinions.
- ☐ 13. Look through some job listings with your child. Have him circle jobs that look interesting. Notice the requirements.
- ☐ 14. Have your child figure out the average of something, such as the age of family members.
- ☐ 15. Tell your child a story that teachers her an important lesson.
- ☐ 16. Play Math Jeopardy. Say a number. Can your child come up with an equation for which your number is the answer?

Daily Learning Planner: Ideas Parents Can Use to Help Students Do Well in School—Try a New Idea Every Day!

- ☐ 17. Notice the states on license plates. Challenge your child to name something about each state you see.
- ☐ 18. With your child, think of synonyms for common words. For example, a synonym for *talk* is *converse*.
- 19. Watch a TV show about nature with your child.
- ☐ 20. Start a family book club. Give each person a turn selecting a book. After everyone reads the same book, talk about it.
- 21. Tell your child about what middle school was like for you.
- 22. Today, talk to your child as you would to a friend or co-worker. How does your child respond?
- 23. Encourage your child to get to know at least three new people outside of his normal group of friends.
- ☐ 24. Teach your child a card game.
- 25. Ensure there is adult supervision when your child visits a friend.
- ☐ 26. Review your rules for your child. Are they appropriate for her age?
- 27. Ask your child, "If you could change one thing in the entire world, what would it be?" Listen carefully to his answer.
- 28. Tell your child about your day—in as much detail as you'd like to hear about hers.
- 29. With your child, try to list things you each did two days ago.
- □ 30. Ask your child how he feels the school year is going so far.
- ☐ 31. Take a walk with your child today.

