

McGuffey PK-8 School

September 2019 Newsletter



Welcome to the start of the 2019-2020 School Year! We have high expectations for our students and are looking forward to a great year! As this year unfolds, if you ever have a question or concern, please call your child's teacher first. Although teachers are unable to answer phone calls during the school day, calls will be returned to you, so please leave a detailed voicemail. Our school phone number is 330-675-6980.

Good communication between the school and the home is essential for your child's academic success and safety. Our theme this school year is "Get in the Game" and we need you to be a part of our

Team McGuffey!



Attendance, Arrival and Dismissal

Your child's attendance at school is very important. Our teachers can't teach them if they aren't here! Your child should only be missing school when they are absolutely too ill to attend school. If your child is absent, please call the school to let us know. Please know that even when you call about an absence, you will still receive a robocall from the district. You must also send in a written excuse the day your child returns to school. Our McGuffey School Liaisons, Mrs. Benson and Mrs. Reed, will be working closely with families regarding attendance issues.

Our Tardy Bell rings at 8:35 a.m. Students must be in class, ready to learn, at that time. If your child is late to school, they must stop at the office for a tardy pass. With the new Ohio House Bill 410, every hour a student misses school will count against their attendance.

Changes in dismissal plans must be in writing and should be as specific as possible. In order to avoid any confusion in plans, we will not be taking changes over the telephone. If you must pick up your child early from school, please do so before 2:40; otherwise, your child will be dismissed the usual way. This is for the safety of our children! Only individuals listed on your child's emergency card will be permitted to pick up that child. A valid ID must be presented by anyone wishing to pick up a child from school.

McGuffey PK-8 School

3465 Tod Avenue, NW Warren, Ohio 44485 330-675-6980

Administrators

Mrs. Reighard – PK-2 Principal
Mrs. Zagorec – 3-5 Principal
Mr. Joseph – 6-8 Principal and Campus Leader
Mrs. Delaquila – Special Education Supervisor
Mrs. Chine – Supervisor of School Improvement

McGuffey Upcoming Events - September 2019

September 2 – Labor Day (No School)

September 9 – Fall Fundraiser Begins

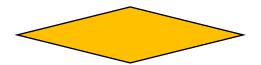
September 11 – Waiver Day (No School)

September 13 – School Spirit Day

September 17 – Constitution Day

September 23 – Fundraiser Orders Due

September 27 – 3rd Grade Family Day at 9:15 a.m.



Kindergarten Color Days

You are invited to participate in Color Days to help our Kindergarten Students learn their colors!

September 9 – Red Day

September 10 – Orange Day

September 12 – Yellow Day

September 16 – Green Day

September 17 – Blue Day

September 18 - Purple Day

September 19 – Brown Day

September 20 – Black Day

September 23 – Pink Day

September 24 – Gray Day



McGuffey Raider PTA News

Welcome back McGuffey Families! We look forward to seeing everyone at the first PTA Meeting on Monday, September 16th at 5:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the cafetorium.

We have lots of great activities lined up this year starting off with the Color Run on September 26th at 5:00 p.m. More information about this will be coming home soon!

Remember, the grade with the most paid PTA Memberships will receive an ice cream party! Make sure to turn in your membership forms and the \$5.00 membership fee by September 6th or at our first meeting.

Get in the Game and have your voice heard!

WE ARE W.A.R.R.E.N.

W – Work Ethic

A - ACCOUNTABILITY

R - RESPECT

R - RESPONSIBILITY

E – EFFECTIVE BEHAVIORS

N - No Excuses

Visitors to the Building

All visitors to McGuffey School must use the main entrance of the school. Please ring the video doorbell located to the far right of the main entry doors. You will be asked your name and the reason for the visit. You will then be buzzed into the vestibule. Walk to the office door and someone will admit you in to the building.

Be prepared to show your ID when visiting the building and picking up a student from school. We also ask for a 24-hour notice for classroom visits, and they must be approved by the principal.



These procedures are for the safety of our children.

Parents as Partners

- Have your child in school every day! Great attendance is important!
- Check your child's folder daily for homework, notes and behavior logs.
- Ask your child open-ended questions: What was the best thing that happened today? What book did you read today? Who are the new friends you made today?
- Talk to your child about adhering to expectations at school. Ask them about the WARREN Acronym.
- Set a time for homework, play, dinner and bed.
- Stay in contact with your child's teacher!



Want to know more about Warren City Schools? Check us out at:

www.warrencityschools.org

You'll find lots of helpful information including our calendar, lunch menu and academic updates!

SEPTEMBER 2019



Warren City Schools PK-8 Lunch

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	
2 HAPPY LABOR DAY!	3 Hot Dogs w/ Bun Smart Snack Chips Carrots & Ranch Cup Orange Slices Mini Rice Krispie Treat	4 Baked Chicken Leg Dinner Roll Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy Green Beans Warm Apples w/ Cinnamon	5 French Toast Sticks Yogurt Cup Smiley Fries Small Fresh Fruit Bowl Orange Juice Syrup Cup	6 Nacho Grande Lettuce/Cheese Salsa/Sour Cream Sweet Corn Pear Cup Taco Sauce/Chipotle Ranch	Parent Information
9 BBQ Grilled Chicken Strips (Baked Off) Dinner Roll Roasted Redskin Potatoes Roasted Butternut Squash (Sample Size) Veggie Melody	10 Lasagna Rollup Garlic Green Beans Breadstick Fruit Choices	No School Staff Work Day	12 Sloppy Joes Smiley French Fries Baked Beans Watermelon Bowls	13 Grilled Chicken Sandwich Melted Cheese Option BBQ Sidewinder Fries Sweet Corn/Corn Cobbett	Our Daily Options: Salad Meals Yogurt Meals Sub Meals P B & Jelly Sandwich Fresh Fruit
16 Chicken Taco Lettuce/Cheese Salsa/Sour Cream Sweet Corn Peach Cup Taco Sauce/Chipotle Ranch	17Rotini & Meatsauce Garlic Toast Garlic Green Beans Applesauce Cup	18 Raider Sub's Smart Snack Chips Lettuce/Tomato (Side) Carrots & Ranch Dip Fresh Fruit Choices Italian/Mayo/Mustard	19 Nardone's Pizza Side Salad Fresh Fruit MJM Crackers Belleria Pizza-Jefferson	20 Pulled Pork WG Bun Baked French Fries Baked Beans Fresh Grapes	Variety of Milk Options Served with every Meal. Menu subject to change.
23 Chicken Nuggets Baked French Fries Baked Beans Cinnamon Carrots Frozen Fruit Cup	24 Spaghetti & Meatballs Garlic Cheese Stick Garlic Green Beans Mixed Fruit Cup	25 Soft Pretzel Cheddar Cheese Cup Celery w/ Ranch/Peanut Butter Orange Wedges MJM Crackers	26 Tony's Personal Pizza Side Salads Fresh Fruit MJM Crackers	27 Turkey Gravy Dinner Roll Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy Sweet Corn Applesauce Cups	This institution is an equal opportunity provider.
30 Chicken Sandwich Baked French Fries Baked Beans Applesauce Cup	1	2 SCHOOL BUS	3	ABC	Schol Bus

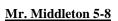
McGuffey School Counseling News

WELCOME BACK, McGUFFEY!

Mrs. Redmond PK-4

Hello parents, students, and staff of McGuffey PK-8! I would like to welcome you to the 2019-2020 school year! Hopefully your summer was full of fun and sun! My name is Mrs. Redmond. I am the PK-4 counselor at McGuffey. This is my 12th year at McGuffey and my 29th year in Education. I live in Warren with my husband, Len, and our two dogs, Barkley and Peanut. I am here to help your child be the best they can be at McGuffey! If you are in need of my assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Mrs. Jill Redmond McGuffey PK-4 Phone 330-675-6980 ext. 5111



Welcome Back!

I hope everyone had a relaxing and fun-filled summer!

My name is Mr. Middleton and I am the school counselor for grades 5-8. I have been an educator for many years and have lived in the Warren area all of my life. I am a huge Ohio State Buckeye fan! I think that McGuffey is the BEST SCHOOL because it is filled with people who care a lot about students! I am an advocate for students. That means I will do whatever I can to help your child succeed. If you need help with ANYTHING, I want you to know that I am here for you.

Contact:

Mr. Middleton, School Counselor

McGuffey Grades 5-8

Phone: 330-675-6980 Ext. 5232

SUCCESSFUL STUDENT CORNER:

Don't try so hard to fit in, and certainly don't try so hard to be different.

JUST TRY HARD TO BE YOU!

McGuffey is S E L Focused!

SEL, or Social Emotional Learning, will continue to be a part of everyday life at McGuffey.

Students will continue to build their skills in the five SEL competencies:





Warren City Schools

http://www.warrenschools.k12.oh.us

Build brainpower by helping your child learn from mistakes

Whether your child is a brand new kindergartner or in an upper grade, he'll be starting the new school year with a clean slate. But like all kids, he will sometimes make mistakes on tests or assignments. That's no reason for either of you to be discouraged!

Research shows that when parents and teachers actively encourage students to fix errors and learn from them, the chil-



dren do better in school. One reason may be that correcting mistakes shows kids that their intelligence isn't fixed—they can improve and get smarter.

When you review your child's work, focus first on what he did right. Then, to help him learn from his mistakes:

- **Talk about them.** Does your child understand why his answers were wrong? If so, have him correct them. If he's not sure, offer suggestions or encourage him to ask his teacher for help.
- **Recognize progress.** Did your child make fewer mistakes on this test than the last one? Remind him that he's improving. Point out how paying attention to past mistakes—and learning from them—made a difference.

Source: H.S. Schroder and others, "Neural evidence for enhanced attention to mistakes among school-aged children with a growth mindset," *Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience*, Elsevier B.V.



Attendance makes a difference from the first day of school to the last

Did you know that attendance in elementary school is so important that students who frequently miss school have lower levels of achievement throughout their school careers?

This is true even in the early grades. And by sixth grade, children who miss more than two days of school each month are more likely to drop out of high school than other students are.

When children miss school, they miss learning. And it doesn't take long to fall behind. Poor attendance has a negative effect on reading and

math skills, as well as on school success traits such as persistence.

September sets the tone for the rest of the year. Start now to develop habits that will help your child arrive at school on time, every day. When you make attendance a priority, your child will, too.

Source: L. Bauer, "School attendance: A building block of student achievement," Brookings, niswc. com/keyblock.

You are part of the team!

Two-way communication between teachers and families supports students. To keep it flowing, review the materials your child brings home. Reach out to the teacher to:

- **Share information** about your child.
- **Ask questions** and express concerns.
- **Schedule a conference** to discuss your child's learning.

Put a premium on kindness

Pressuring children to get top marks often has the opposite effect. But according to one study, showing your child you value kindness and consideration as much as or more than grades can help her perform better in class. To get the message across:

- **Demonstrate.** Let your child see you being kind and respectful to others.
- **Praise** positive behavior in your child and others.
- Encourage healthy relationships with teachers and classmates.



Source: L. Ciciolla and others, "When Mothers and Fathers Are Seen as Disproportionately Valuing Achievements," *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, Springer US.

Support homework efforts

To encourage your child to be conscientious about homework, create the conditions for success. Make sure he has:

- A designated study area. It should be well-lit and free of distractions like TV during homework time.
- **A set study time.** Experiment to see when your child is most alert, then stick with that time.
- A supply kit. Having pencils, erasers, rulers and other tools handy eliminates time-wasting searches.





My fifth grader is lonely at school. What should I do?

Q: My daughter's three best friends are in another class. She says she has no friends in her class, and she doesn't like school anymore. Should I ask to have her moved to the other class?

A: Not all the lessons students learn in school are academic. One lesson your daughter will learn this year is that she won't always get to choose the people she



works with. She can always stay friends with the children in the other class. But now she has an opportunity to make some new friends, too.

To help your daughter adjust:

- **Talk about your own life.** Have you ever had to work with people you didn't know? Share the story with your child. Remind her that making new friends is a skill she'll use in middle school and for the rest of her life.
- **Practice conversation starters** together that can help her find kids who share her interests. "I like your drawing. Do you like to draw? I love it."
- **Foster new friendships.** Help your child arrange to get together outside of school with classmates she likes.
- **Let the teacher know** about your child's situation. Ask for suggestions for ways to help your daughter connect with classmates.



Are you encouraging healthy habits?

Proper rest, nutrition, exercise and hygiene all make it easier for students to concentrate and learn in and out of school. Are you helping your child establish healthy habits? Answer *yes* or *no* to the questions below:

- ___**1. Do you stick to** a bedtime that gives your child at least nine hours of sleep at night?
- **__2. Do you make sure** your child eats a nutritious breakfast before school?
- __**3. Do you give** your child healthy snacks, such as sliced raw vegetables, when he is hungry?
- __**4. Do you encourage** your child to get daily exercise? Getting the whole family involved makes this more fun.

___**5. Do you teach** your child to wash his hands frequently and sneeze into his elbow?

How well are you doing?

More yes answers mean you are promoting habits that support learning. For each no, try that idea.

Get ready for a great year

The school year is busy. Setting up some structure now will help ensure it is also happy and productive for your child and your family. Here are some things to do:

- **Make a plan** for after-school activities. Include plenty of time for reading, family and relaxation.
- **Create routines** to help your child get tasks done on time.
- **Start a family calendar** to keep track of everyone's commitments.
- Arrange for backup. Agree to trade favors with another parent who will cover for you if you are delayed or sick.

Give out a few assignments

When it comes to teaching responsibility, practice works better than lectures. To begin the lesson with your child:

• Choose a few tasks he is ready to handle on his own, such as getting up on time, packing lunch and feeding a pet.



- Make a checklist for him to follow.
- Agree on small rewards for a job well done and consequences for skipping responsibilities.

Don't protect your child from learning

Getting involved with your child's education can enhance her learning. But it's crucial to remember that she has to do the learning for herself. Avoid these common pitfalls:

- **Don't do everything** for your child. Let her grow by trying new things.
- **Don't rush to school** with something she forgot. Let her face the consequences.
- **Don't try to negotiate** a better grade for your child.

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



PARENT INSTITUTE*

September 2019

- 1. Make an appointment to spend some one-on-one time with your child this month. Write it on your calendar.
- 2. Set aside time every day for reading aloud. Sometimes, have your child read to you
- 3. Ask your child, "What one thing makes you feel really excited?"
- 4. Write a note saying something nice about your child. Tuck it where he will find it later.
- 5. Draw a picture with your child today. Hang it on the refrigerator.
- ☐ 6. Write upcoming school events on your family calendar. Plan to attend as many as you can.
- 7. Cut out four pictures from a magazine. Ask your child to tell you a story that involves something from each picture.
- 8. On Sunday nights, talk with your child about the week ahead.
- 9. Ask your child, "If you could go anywhere, where would you go?"
- ☐ 10. Make a special effort to reinforce manners today. Remind family members to say *please* and *thank you*.
- ☐ 11. Watch a funny video with your child. Then have her draw a comic strip showing what it was about.
- 12. Have a 20-minute family DEAR time (Drop Everything And Read).
- ☐ 13. Name different types of punctuation with your child. Then have him find examples in a book or newspaper.
- ☐ 14. Keep a notebook handy when watching TV. Have your child jot down new words she hears and look them up later.
- ☐ 15. Be sure you and your child know school rules. Talk about one today.
- ☐ 16. Ask your child, "What are your three favorite songs?"

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

- ☐ 17. Choose a place by the front door for items that go to school. Help your child get into the habit of putting things there each day.
- 18. Talk about *honesty* and why it is so important at home and at school.
- 19. Invent a word with your child. Write a silly definition.
- ☐ 20. Tonight at dinner, put a "price" on each item you serve. Have your child figure out the total cost of the meal.
- 21. Go outside. Show your child which way is north, south, east and west.
- 22. Pick a word from the dictionary and draw a picture of it. See if your child can guess the word. Then switch roles.
- 23. "Adopt" a neighborhood tree. With your child, watch it throughout the year. Talk about how it looks, feels and even smells.
- 24. Together, write a poem about your family. Start each line with a letter from the word FAMILY.
- 25. Make a jigsaw puzzle with your child. Glue a picture from a magazine onto cardboard. Cut it into puzzle pieces.
- ☐ 26. Have your child put a leafy stalk of celery into colored water. Watch the color rise into the stalk over the next week.
- ☐ 27. Play "guess that number" together: How many grapes in a bunch?
- 28. Today, have your child keep track of everything he eats. Together, think of ways to make his diet more nutritious.
- 29. Tell your child three things that you love about her.
- ☐ 30. Review spelling words with your child tonight.



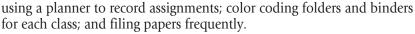
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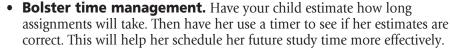
For a successful year of learning, review essential study skills

Study skills have a big impact on student learning. Helping your middle schooler strengthen her skills at the beginning of the school year will ensure that she has the tools she needs to do her best in school all year long.

To lay the groundwork for academic success:

Promote organization.
 Help your child create systems to keep track of schoolwork:





- **Encourage self-awareness.** Ask your child to figure out when she's most alert. Right after school? After blowing off some steam outdoors? Have her do most of her homework and studying during those times.
- **Teach effective management** of large long-term projects. Show her how to divide them into smaller, more manageable parts.
- **Urge prompt action.** Let your child know that being a responsible student involves asking for help when it's needed. If she is confused or has trouble with a concept, she should talk to the teacher immediately.



Don't let devices become distractions

Middle schoolers sometimes seem to be superglued to their phones. They text, share videos and selfies, and scroll through social media constantly.

Students often think their digital devices can help with homework. And sometimes they can. But there's one problem: Kids rarely stay focused on the homework. Soon they are checking out the latest viral meme.

Studies show that the more time students text, read online or use social media while doing schoolwork, the lower their grades are.

To help your child focus on schoolwork instead of his phone:

- **Discuss multitasking** and how research proves it doesn't work.
- **Limit use of devices** during homework time.
- **Be a role model.** Don't check your phone when you should be concentrating on something else—such as during family meals or (especially) while driving.

Source: K. Kowalski, "When Smartphones Go to School," Science News for Students, niswc.com/mid_smartphone.

Show your child you care

The middle school years aren't always easy for kids. To support your child through the ups and downs:

- **Tell** her that you love her, no matter what.
- **Plan** together for her exciting future.
- **Express** confidence in her ability to succeed.



Prioritize daily attendance

School absences affect students in more ways than many families realize. For example:

- Classroom performance suffers.

 Absent students miss demonstrations, discussions and chances for hands-on learning. Most have trouble keeping up if they miss more than a few days.
- **Friendships suffer.** These often begin at school. Kids who miss school frequently may have fewer friends. Without them, they can lose interest in school altogether.

School attendance is the law. Enforcing it is one of the most critical ways you can help your child get the education he deserves.

Encourage learning at home

To reinforce your child's learning, help her find ways to apply it at home. Here are a few easy ones:

- **Have your child explain** something she is studying to you. Retelling it helps cement it in her mind.
- Ask your child to do household math—doubling recipes, budgeting, measuring, etc.



 Have a movie night. Choose a thought-provoking film. Afterward, ask your child questions about it. Encourage her to think critically before answering.





How can parents of middle schoolers stay informed?

Q: I know that I am supposed to let my middle schooler take more responsibility for his schoolwork. But I'm afraid that I won't be aware of things like assignments and upcoming tests. How can I stay in the loop without seeming nosy?

A: Staying involved and knowing how your son is doing in school are important parts of being a parent. It's not being nosy!

To encourage responsibility and still stay informed:

- **Keep asking about school.** Have your child tell you about each of his classes. The more you know about them, the more comfortable you'll fee
 - them, the more comfortable you'll feel asking about them. At least once a week, set aside time for a chat about how things are going.
- **Read everything that comes home** from school. Have your child go through his backpack and give you any handouts. Read emails from the school. Visit the school website or parent portal.
- **Touch base with your child's teachers.** Exchange contact information. Ask them if there is a website for their class you can view.
- Attend school events when you can. Connecting with school staff and other parents is a great way to find out what's going on at school!



Are you making reading a pleasure?

Many middle schoolers say they don't read for pleasure. But reading for fun helps kids develop fluency and comprehension skills. Are you encouraging your child to make time for reading? Answer yes or no below:

- **__1. Do you have** a weekly time for family reading?
- **__2. Do you link** reading to your child's interests by suggesting titles on topics she cares about?
- __3. Do you make it easy to find something to read by keeping a variety of reading material around your home?
- ___**4. Do you talk** with your child about interesting or entertaining things you read?
- **__5. Do you engage** her in activities that involve reading, such

as building things by following instructions?

How well are you doing?

More yes answers mean you are showing your child what a pleasure reading can be. For each no, try that idea.

"Reading takes us

"Reading takes us

away from home,
but more important,
but more important,
it finds homes for
it finds homes."

us everywhere."

Find time to talk together

Spending time with your middle schooler is the best way to keep communication—about school and everything else—flowing. If your schedule is busy, make the most of:

- **Kitchen time.** Ask for your child's help in preparing meals. As you cook, have him describe his dream meal.
- **Library time.** Browse the shelves with your child. Take an interest in the things that he likes. It shows that you value him.
- **Travel time.** Sitting side by side in the car or on the bus (rather than eye to eye) can make it easier for kids to open up.

Give your child a chance to solve the problem

You want the best for your child. But if you rush in to solve every small problem she has at school, she won't learn how to solve bigger problems in the future for herself.

If your child receives a grade she feels is unfair, encourage her to talk to the teacher about it. If she forgets her homework, let her manage the consequences. Experience can be a great teacher.

Sleep is critical for learning

Six out of 10 middle schoolers don't get enough sleep. This increases their risk for physical and mental health issues, as well as



attention and behavior problems in school.

So how much sleep is enough? Students:

- **Aged 12 and under** need nine to 12 hours of sleep every 24 hours.
- **Aged 13 and up** should get eight to 10 hours of sleep per night.

Set and stick to a regular bedtime that helps your child wake up rested and ready to learn.

Source: "Sleep in Middle and High School Students," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, niswc.com/rest.

Helping Students Learn®

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PARENT NOTITUTE *

September 2019

- 1. Have your child color code class materials. Give him a different color folder for each class. He can cover his textbooks in matching colors.
- 2. Help your child set goals for the school year and plan how to reach them.
- ☐ 3. With your child, decide on a daily homework and study time.
- 4. Tell your child that her education is important to you and that you expect her to give her best effort.
- 5. Allow your child plenty of free time for reading.
- 6. Eliminate technology distractions during homework time. Turn off all devices that aren't being used for learning.
- 7. Offer your middle schooler a choice of chores to do. Let him pick one of three options.
- 8. Tell your child why you appreciate her today.
- 9. Encourage your child to write a letter to a faraway friend or relative.
- ☐ 10. Ask your child questions about school each day to get an idea about what he is learning.
- 11. Discuss the summer. Ask your child to name three things she learned.
- ☐ 12. Encourage your child to keep a notebook handy when reading. He can jot down unknown words and look them up later.
- ☐ 13. Think of synonyms with your child, such as walk/stroll and stop/halt.
- 14. Have a "stay-up-late" night. Let your child stay up as late as she wants, as long as she's reading.
- ☐ 15. Practice estimating with your child. How many popcorn kernels will fit in your hand? How many grains of rice fit in a tablespoon?
- ☐ 16. Set a technology curfew. Pick a time when all TVs, computers, tablets and phones must be turned off for the night.

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- ☐ 17. Solve a crossword puzzle with your child.
- ☐ 18. Review the rules you have for your child. Are they still appropriate for his age?
- 19. Teach your child a useful new skill, such as how to do laundry.
- 20. Ask your child to tell you about the similarities and the differences between her classes.
- 21. Choose a recipe with your child. Shop for ingredients, cook and enjoy the results together.
- 22. Let your child see you reading often. This teaches him that reading is important and fun.
- 23. Help your child make a budget.
- 24. Have your child teach you something she needs to learn for homework. It's a great way to reinforce learning.
- 25. Do some research on drug abuse. Make sure you and your child have the latest facts.
- ☐ 26. Is your child turning assignments in on time? Praise his responsibility.
- 27. Ask your child to tell you about one of her teachers.
- 28. Make library trips a regular part of your family schedule. Check out a book about careers with your child.
- 29. Make an album or slideshow of family photos with your child.
- ☐ 30. Have you met your child's teachers? If not, set up appointments soon.

