

GENERAL NASH ELEMENTARY H&S

2016

2017



AUGUST

16th - H&S Meeting, 7pm
25th - New Family Orientation
30th - First Day of School

OCTOBER

3rd - NO SCHOOL
5th - Walk to School Day
7th - Show Your Colors Spirit Day
12th - NO SCHOOL
13th - H&S Meeting, 7pm
18th - March-a-thon
23rd - Painting With A Twist
25th - March-a-thon rain date
31st - Halloween Parade

JANUARY

6th - Pajama Spirit Day
12th - H&S Meeting, 7pm
16th - NO SCHOOL
24th - Wendy's Dining Night Out

APRIL

6th - H&S Meeting, 7pm
7th - Disney Spirit Day
12-17 - Spring Break
20th - Spring Pictures
25th - Wendy's Dining Night Out
28th - Spring Zing, 7pm

NOVEMBER

4th - Hat Spirit Day
7 - 8 - NO SCHOOL
10th - H&S Meeting, 7pm
17th - Mini Book Fair
14-18 - American Education Week
23-25 - NO SCHOOL

FEBRUARY

3rd - Sports Spirit Day
4th - Winter Carnival, 10 - 2
9th - H&S Meeting, 7pm
10th - Father/Daughter Dance
20th - NO SCHOOL
24th - Basketball Blast, 5:30
27 - 3/3 - Book Fair

MAY

5th - Super Hero Spirit Day
11th - H&S Meeting, 7pm
12th - Appreciation Luncheon
13th - Triathlon
16th - NO SCHOOL
26th - Olympic Day
29th - NO SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER

1st - Dairy Queen Night, 5pm
2-5 - NO SCHOOL
7th - Back to School Night, 6:30
9th - Welcome Picnic, 6:30pm
- Spirit Day (Nash/Red, Blue & White)
13th - Fall Picture Day
14th - H&S Meeting, 7pm
17th - 6th Grade Car Wash 10-2
- Clothing Drive 10 - 1
23rd - Room parent & Coordinator Orientation, 9:30am

DECEMBER

2nd - Fashion Disaster Day
? - Holiday Shop
10th - Holiday Shop/Breakfast with Frosty, 9-12
23rd - Holiday Sing-a-long
26-31 - NO SCHOOL (Winter Break)

MARCH

3rd - Book Fair Family Night
- Dr. Seuss Spirit Day
9th - H&S Meeting, 7pm
21st - Crazy Sock Day - World Down Syndrome Day
27th - NO SCHOOL

JUNE

2nd - Beach Day Spirit Day
7th - Recognition Assembly
- 6th Grade Lip Sync
8th - Last Day of School
- Moving Up Assembly
- Yo-Fresh Dining Day Out

The above dates and times are subject to change. Be sure to get the latest updates and information by joining the General Nash H&S group on Facebook, signing up for H&S Constant Contact E-Mails, and checking the website <http://www.npenn.org/domain/914/>!



Dining Night

Valley Forge Road & Sumneytown Pike (near Weis)

Thursday, September 1 from 5-9 pm

Come out, support Nash and spend some time with friends!

You may even spot your favorite teachers as guest servers!!



*A percentage of sales will be donated to Nash Home and School.

General Nash Welcome Picnic 2016



Please join us Friday, September 9th 6:30-8:30 pm

DJ Mike Trotter will be hosting the night with music and games!

Visit our Information Table to learn about fun ways to get involved at NASH!

Take part in our "Kindness Rocks" program, new this year!

Have dinner with your family and NASH friends and staff!

(order form below, meals are pre-purchase only)



Welcome Picnic Dinner Order Form

Name: _____

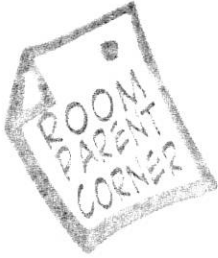
\$2.50 (1) slice of pizza, bag of chips, drink # of Meals _____

\$3.50 (2) slices of pizza, bag of chips, drink # of Meals _____

**For your drink you have the option of Water or a Juice Bag. # of Water(s) _____ # of Juice bags _____

Please return by Tuesday, 9/6 in an envelope labled, Welcome Picnic

Checks can be made out to General Nash Home & School



Co-Captain/Room Parent Volunteer Form

We need your help for Co-Captains and Room Parents for your child's homeroom class! Being a Room Parent is rewarding, fun and provides you an opportunity to become an active, supportive partner in your child's education. Please be advised that per NPSD, volunteer clearances will need to be completed prior to attending any activities. For further information on clearances, please go to npenn.org/quicklinks/volunteer policy changes.

Position Descriptions:

Co-Captain – Two parents will be selected for each homeroom. The main responsibility is to organize and coordinate class parties/events along with the teacher (including activities/games/snacks) and delegate duties and request necessary items of room parents and remaining classmate parents.

Room Parent - These parents will be asked to help with class parties and events as coordinated by the classroom Co-Captains.

(Note: If you are not selected to be co-captain, you will automatically be assigned as a room parent. Co-captains will be notified when they are selected. Please be aware that ONLY those that have signed up to help with these activities will be able to assist, even if you are unsure of availability, but would like to participate, please complete the information below.)

Volunteer Name: _____

Telephone# _____ **Email:** _____

	<u>Co-Captain</u>	<u>Room Parent</u>
Child #1 Name _____		
Grade: _____ Teacher Name: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child #2 Name _____		
Grade: _____ Teacher Name: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Child #3 Name _____		
Grade: _____ Teacher Name: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comments/Questions: _____		

Please return this completed form to your child's teacher by Sept. 16. Co-Captain/Room Parent orientation will be on Sept. 23 at 9:30AM (this is a great time to begin planning for Halloween activities), so we encourage you to attend.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Nicole Pritchett @ nicolepritchett03@gmail.com or Michele Soltis @ Michele.soltis@gmail.com

Thank You,
Nicole and Michele, Room Parent Coordinators

impact!
Thrift Stores

Goods for a
Greater
Good

Collection Drive Fundraiser!



Impact Thrift will pay us for every pound we collect!

Saturday, September 17
10am-1pm

General Nash Elementary School
1560 Liberty^{Bell} Drive Harleysville PA

*benefitting the students via the
General Nash Home & School Association*

For more info, contact Colleen Gillies Peterson
natsmom.peterson55@gmail.com

Here's what we're looking for...

Clothing

Small Electronics

Shoes

Books and Records

Purses

(excluding encyclopedias)

Home Decor

Blankets, Sheets

**All of the donated items will be either sold at Impact Thrift Stores or responsibly recycled.*

Impact Thrift supports a variety of charities whose mission supports families and children in crisis. Your donations to Impact Thrift will either be sold in stores OR responsibly recycled, thereby generating funds needed to financially support local charities on a monthly basis.



Impact Thrift Stores, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. You will receive a tax deductible receipt for your donation.



impactthrift.org



Introducing

NASH PALS

(Parents are Life Savers)



Do you have a question about Nash? How about a question about your child's specific grade level?

Nash PALS are here to help!

We have a PAL from each grade level waiting to answer your questions! Just contact one of your grade level PALS listed below with your question and they will be happy to help answer your question or guide you! (Grade levels of children in Nash in parentheses)

Nash Community PALS

Christine DiPippo (1) cd2617@hotmail.com
Kristen Mallitz (4,1) kmallitz@gmail.com
Nicole Pritchett (4,2) nicolepritchett03@gmail.com

Kindergarten PALS

Michelle Andolino (1,4) menjcu@aol.com
Kate Beres (1, 3) kateberes@hotmail.com
Janellen Reid (1) janellenadams@hotmail.com
Erin Augustine (1, 2) the.augustines104@gmail.com

1st Grade PALS

Jocelyn DeLeon (2,5) joshryn@aol.com
Meredith Corlett (2) m.corlett@hotmail.com
Sue Zima (2,4) susanzima@zoho.com

2nd Grade PALS

Jen Doern (3) jen.doern@gmail.com
Danielle Verwey (3) verweydm@gmail.com
Sherry Newell (3,6) newellss@verizon.net
Dawn Thomas (3,4) bbluvt@gmail.com

3rd Grade PALS

CarrieAnn Cummiskey (4) cummisca@npenn.org
Cathy/Jim Stanley-Ericsson (4) cjseinpa@gmail.com
Tara DiLenge (4,5) taradilenge@yahoo.com
Kristin Feltus (4) kristin.feltus@gmail.com

4th Grade PALS

Carrie Manna (5) mannafamily@verizon.net
Wendy Fillgrove (5) w_zoll@yahoo.com
Jen Jezyk (5) jenjezyk@hotmail.com

5th Grade PALS

Fran Orth (6) fran152@verizon.net
Jen MacNair (4,6) jmacnair@verizon.net
Pind Dong (6) pingdong88@hotmail.com
Donna Hegge (4,6) thehegges@verizon.net

6th Grade PALS

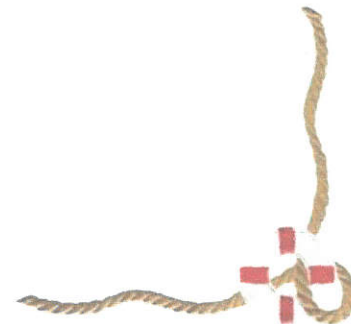
Becky Carpenter (1,6) rac5276@gmail.com
Sherrie Kukuk (6) sherriekukuk@gmail.com
Christie Scott (6) christiescott96@yahoo.com
Steph Intrieri (6) stephintrieri@comcast.net

NPAGE (NP Assoc. for Gifted Ed.) PAL

Wendy Fillgrove (5) w_zoll@yahoo.com

Autistic Support Class PAL

Sue Zima (2,4) susanzima@zoho.com



BED BATH & BEYOND
20% Off
 One Single Item
 SAMPLE COUPON - DO NOT REDEEM

\$15 OFF your next purchase of \$75 or more
\$10 OFF your next purchase of \$50 or more
 DICK'S SPORTING GOODS
 COUPON VALID AT ANY DICK'S SPORTING GOODS LOCATION FOR A STORE NEAREST YOU CALL 1.866.819.0038
 See terms on reverse side

Payless
10% off purchase
 SAMPLE COUPON - DO NOT REDEEM

Michaels
 VALID THROUGH 12/31/17
40% OFF
 ANY ONE REGULAR PRICE ITEM
 SAMPLE COUPON - DO NOT REDEEM
 See back for details.

Burlington
 STYLE FOR EVERYONE
 TAKE AN **EXTRA 10% OFF**
 OUR ALREADY LOW PRICES ON ANY SINGLE ITEM FOR YOU OR YOUR FAMILY
 SAMPLE COUPON DO NOT REDEEM

BARNES & NOBLE
 SAMPLE COUPON - DO NOT REDEEM
15% OFF
 ONE ITEM

Over 65 Million Dollars Raised For Education!!!

\$25.00
 Schools Earn 50% Profit

KidStuffTM

...and more!
Coupon Savings Book

9/16-9/20

\$SAVE! \$SAVE! \$SAVE!

On Clothing, Shoes, Sporting Goods, Crafts, Toys, Activities, Food & More!

- Use just a few coupons and save more than the \$25 cost of the book!
- Most coupons are valid through Dec. 31, 2017!
- Our school earns 50% or more profit!
- POST! TWEET! EMAIL! Family, friends and co-workers will love saving with KidStuff!
- Fabulous savings for all ages!

KIDSTUFF DOES NOT PROMOTE DOOR-TO-DOOR SALES BY CHILDREN

This fundraiser benefits our 6th grade class activities.

\$10 OFF
 Any Regular & Sale Priced Clothing, Accessories, Intimates and Sleepwear
 Purchase Of \$50 Or More
 See Reverse Side For Details
 SAMPLE COUPON DO NOT REDEEM

AN EXTRA 10% OFF
 SELECT REGULAR SALE & CLEARANCE CLOTHING & ACCESSORIES
 EXCLUDES: OFF SELECTION, ALL HOME & HOME ITEMS, SPORT COATS & JEWELRY
 EXCLUDES: YOURS, SAMPLES, H&M, SALE, REBATES, SPORT COATS & JEWELRY
 SELECT SALE CLEARANCE MATCHES SELECT REGULAR PRICED ITEMS
 EXCLUSION: THIS OFFER IS VALID THROUGH 12/31/17
 SAMPLE COUPON - DO NOT REDEEM





Advertise your business in the 2016-17
**General Nash Elementary
School Directory**



Dear Nash Families,

We are excited to provide a super-local Nash Yellow Pages for our families this year, and invite our families with businesses to place an ad in our 2016-17 Nash Directory. The *General Francis Nash Elementary Student Directory*, published by our Nash Home & School Association each fall, reaches over 350 families and staff in the North Penn area. It is a cost-effective way to promote your products and services to the school. Advertising proceeds help us to fund field trips, assemblies, student activities and family events, as well as to provide our teachers with supplemental classroom supplies. We greatly appreciate your support!

AD SPECIFICATIONS:

- Prices are as follows:

Business Card (3.5" w x 2" h)	\$25.00
Half Page (5.5" w x 3.5" h)	\$50.00
Full Page (5.5" w x 7.75" h)	\$100.00

- Digital Ads need to be in PDF or JPG format - *optional*
- Ads will be printed in black & white. Please, no coupons with ads.
- Ads may be emailed to aclubach@gmail.com.
- Ads are sold on a first-come, first-served basis.

TO PLACE AN AD:

- Send digital ad in PDF or JPG format to aclubach@gmail.com - *optional*
- Attach a hard-copy ad to the General Nash School Directory Advertising form.
- Send the completed form and ad copy with payment to:
General Nash Elementary Home & School, c/o Amanda Laubach
1560 Liberty Bell Drive, Harleysville, PA 19438.
- Advertising orders are due by **Friday, September 23rd**.
- Directories will be distributed during the month of October.
- Payment must be received by deadline in order for ad to run.

Please note the School Directory is for the exclusive use of General Nash Elementary families and faculty and may not be used by other organizations or businesses for mailing lists or solicitations.

Thank you very much for your support of General Nash Home & School,

Amanda Laubach
General Nash Elementary Home & School
215-855-2164; aclubach@gmail.com



GENERAL NASH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SCHOOL DIRECTORY ADVERTISING FORM

Due Friday, September 23, 2016



The General Nash Elementary School Directory is a cost-effective way to advertise and promote your products and services to a targeted audience of 350-plus school-age families. Directories will be distributed during the month of October. Please note the School Directory is for the exclusive use of General Nash families and staff and may not be used by other organizations or businesses for mailing lists or solicitations. Thank you for your support of the General Nash Elementary School Directory. General Francis Nash Elementary Home & School Association is a member of the North Penn Coordinating Council and is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt non-profit organization.

Business Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Contact Person: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please indicate ad choice(s) below by checking (v) the applicable box(es). Ads are sold on a first-come, first-served basis.

_____ \$25 Business Card (3.5" w x 2"h)

_____ \$50 Half Page (5.5"w x 3.5"h)

_____ \$100 Full Page (5.5"w x 7.75"h)

Please submit this form, your ad copy and payment to the address below. Please make checks payable to "General Nash Home & School".

General Nash Elementary Home & School
c/o Amanda Laubach
1560 Liberty Bell Drive
Harleysville, PA 19438

----- ADMINISTRATIVE USE ONLY -----

Cash Amount: \$ _____ Check Amount: \$ _____ Check Number: _____

Initials of Receiver: _____ Date Received: _____

The Nash Home & School Presents:

Spanish Club 2016-2017



Señora Paty and a group of caring instructors will be using a wonderful program called "Risas y Sonrisas". This is a nationally recognized method that uses games, music, and other activities to teach students to speak Spanish in a fun learning environment. Students will also learn about Spanish speaking Cultures. Culminating in our *very popular* end of the year "Authentic Mexican Party"

When: Once per week, Tuesday or Wednesday (AM and PM)

Where: TBD

Starting: Week of **October 4th, 2016.**

Levels and times:

Beginner & Intermediate levels: For those who are new to Spanish and those who would like to review and learn new concepts. Tues AM (8:25am) or Tue PM (3:45pm to 4:15pm)

Grammar: Advanced class placement recommended after at least 2 years of Spanish or based on teacher recommendation. Wed AM (45 mins 8:15am) or Wed PM (45mins 3:45-4:30pm)

Cost*: Instructional cost is for the entire 24 week program.

	<u>1 child</u>	<u>2 or more siblings</u>	<u>Class Time</u>
Beginners/Intermediate:	\$185 per child	\$175 per child	30 Minutes
Grammar:	\$205 per child	\$195 per child	45 Minutes

Please fill out the registration/emergency form and return it, with payment*, to school by **Friday 9/16/16**. Please make checks payable to *General Nash Home & School*

****For easy bookkeeping, we ask that this *non-refundable* amount be *paid in full* ****

* Just Registration forms that have attached payment will be included in the registration process.

We look forward to a full year of learning. Please contact us if you have any questions?

The Spanish Club Committee,

Kristen Mallitz , 215-859-1948, kmallitz@gmail.com

Tara Dilenge, taradilenge@yahoo.com, 215-393-0953

You can also now pay by credit card.

\$ _____ Total Amount Due Select one: ___Visa ___MasterCard ___Discover ___Amexco

Credit Card #: _____ CVV _____ Exp: _____

Signature Required for Credit Card payments: _____

SPANISH CLUB REGISTRATION FORM

Student's Last Name First Name Middle

Address Town Zip Code

School attending this year Grade entering this fall Birth date

Mother/Step Mother/Guardian Name (circle one) Cell Phone #

Work Phone # Email Address

Father/Step Father/Guardian Name (circle one) Cell Phone #

Work Phone # Email Address

Class Level Requested (circle one): Beginners Intermediate Grammar

Local Emergency Contact other than parents listed to care for or pick up child if parents are not available

Name: _____

Cell Phone #: _____

Does your child require any reasonable accommodations because of a disability?
NO YES If so, explain: _____

Does your child have any medical conditions we should be aware of?
NO YES: _____

Does your child have any allergies? NO YES: _____

Does your child attend after care? If yes, circle one: AM PM AM and PM

Signature of Parent/Guardian: _____ DATE: _____

Reading Connection

Tips for Reading Success

Beginning Edition

September 2016

General Nash Elementary School

Book Picks

Read-aloud favorites

■ *Dad's First Day* (Mike Wohnoutka)

In this twist on a first-day-of-school story, Oliver's dad is the one who is nervous. Oliver is excited, but his dad isn't ready for summer to end or for his son to start school. Your child will laugh as the dad complains of a tummy ache and ends up having a tantrum when it's time to leave Oliver at school.



■ *Ruby Lu Brave and True*

(Lenore Look)

Ruby Lu lives in Seattle with her family. She loves to put on backyard magic shows and dress up. But she doesn't love going to Chinese school on Saturdays. This first book in the Ruby Lu series includes "Ruby's Fantastic Glossary and Pronunciation Guide" with Chinese words.

■ *Edmund Unravels* (Andrew Kolb)

A ball of yarn named Edmund always loved adventure and travel. But whenever he went too far, he'd unravel, and his parents had to wind him back up. As he gets older and bigger, Edmund goes farther away to explore the world. The farther he goes, the smaller he gets, and eventually he misses the familiar tug from his family.



■ *Ada's Violin* (Susan Hood)

Read the true story of an orchestra in Paraguay that plays instruments made entirely from recycled materials. Young Ada never thought she'd be able to play the violin until a new music teacher got creative with materials found in a landfill. (Also available in Spanish.)



Fall into reading

Autumn is quickly approaching! Your youngster can learn all about the new season while he practices reading for information. Here are fun opportunities.

Collect facts

How do pumpkins grow? Why do leaves fall off trees? Read non-fiction library books about fall, and encourage your child to listen for interesting facts.

Then, let him cut out autumn shapes (pumpkins, leaves) from construction paper, and help him write down the facts. *Example:* "Pumpkins grow on vines." He could hang up the shapes for a colorful autumn display to read again and again.

Read autumn "news"

Take a walk around town, and look for fall-related announcements. A police station sign might remind drivers that students are back at school, a street banner may announce an autumn festival, and a sign in a store window could advertise

a fall sale. Ask your youngster to read any words he knows, and read the rest to him.

Research fall produce

Visit an apple orchard, a farmers' market, or the grocery store, and help your child discover fall fruits and vegetables. Together, read signs or brochures to learn about them. For instance, which apples are more popular for baking pies—Golden Delicious or Granny Smith? Where was the cauliflower grown? What is quince used for?♥



Show me what you wrote in school

Invite your child to "read" a story she wrote in class. You might be treated to an elaborate tale while she points to a drawing with random letters underneath—that's okay! She has picked up on the fact that printed words tell a story, and she is taking her first steps toward writing them.

Then, encourage her to talk about her writing by asking open-ended questions like these:

- "How did you come up with the idea for your story?"
- "What do you think will happen to the characters next?"
- "Does the story remind you of anything that has happened in real life?"♥



Alphabet fun

Lines, loops, circles, and tails... each letter of the alphabet has its own shape. And being able to instantly recognize every uppercase and lowercase letter is an important foundation for reading success. Try these activities.

ABC collage. Have your youngster cut out letters in different colors and sizes from cereal boxes, magazines, newspapers,



and catalogs. She can arrange and glue them onto paper however she likes. Take turns pointing to a letter and saying its name. This will help her recognize letters out of order and in various sizes and fonts.

Mystery letter. What has one big vertical line with three smaller horizontal lines attached to it? (A capital E.) Think of a letter, and give your child directions to draw it on paper. For a lowercase g, you might say, "Make a circle at the top. Add a tail going down that curves up to the left." Can she tell you what letter she made? Next, she could give you one to draw. She'll learn to notice small differences between letters—a key to mastering letter recognition. For example, ask her what happens if she erases the bottom horizontal line on a capital E. She has an F!♥

Parent to Parent

Pictures contain clues

My son Jackson is just starting to read, and he often looks at the pictures to help him figure out words. I wondered if he should be sounding out words instead, so I asked his teacher.

To my surprise, Mrs. Thomas said using picture clues and sounding out words are both good strategies for early readers.



For example, Jackson might come to a word that starts with R and see a rainbow in the illustration. Using what he knows about beginning sounds, he could guess that the R word is rainbow. Mrs. Thomas said this builds confidence and teaches children to try different strategies.

She suggested that when Jackson and I choose library books, we get some with just a few words on each page and pictures that match. A librarian helped us find books, and Jackson is enjoying practicing his reading strategies at home.♥



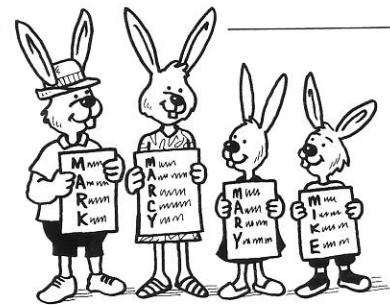
Fun with Words

Family acrostics

Your youngster will stretch his vocabulary as he selects just the right words to describe himself and his family.

On separate sheets of paper, have family members write their first names down the left margin. Then, each person adds a word or phrase that begins with each letter in his name and tells something about him. For instance, Luke might think of "Loves to laugh," for L and "Ultra strong" for U. *Note:* Keep a dictionary on hand in case anyone gets stuck.

When everyone is finished, read your acrostics to each other. Next, work together to make one with your last name. Maybe the Barr family will write, "Barbecue fans, Adventurers, Readers, Riders of bikes."♥



Q&A Fine-motor play

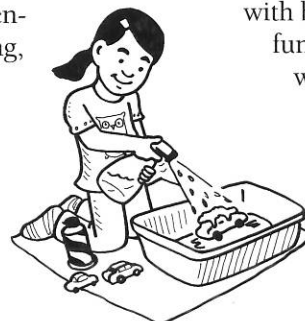
Q My daughter is just learning to use a pencil and cut with scissors. Can you suggest ways I can help her practice at home?

A Playtime is ideal for strengthening little hands for writing, cutting, and other fine-motor tasks.

For example, let your daughter make a car wash for her toy cars. In a sink or big plastic bin, she can squirt shaving cream onto her vehicles and use a spray bottle to rinse them off. Pressing the dispenser on the

shaving cream and squeezing the spray nozzle are both great workouts for her "writing muscles."

Or encourage your child to use kitchen tongs when she builds with blocks. She'll think it's fun to pick up each block with the tongs and add it to her tower. And she'll work on hand-eye coordination as she tries to see how tall she can make her building before it topples over.♥



OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ways to promote their children's reading, writing, and language skills.

Resources for Educators, a division of CCH Incorporated
 128 N. Royal Avenue • Front Royal, VA 22630
 540-636-4280 • rfeustomer@wolterskluwer.com
 www.rfeonline.com
 ISSN 1540-5648



Why Your Child Can't Skip Their 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight

James

reads 20 minutes per night,
5 times per week



Travis

reads only 4 minutes per night
...or not at all



In one week:

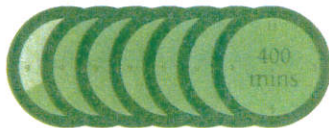
100
minutes of reading



20
minutes of reading

In one month:

400
minutes of reading



80
minutes of reading

In one school year (9 months):

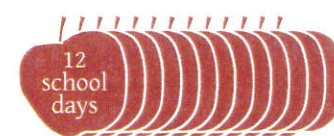
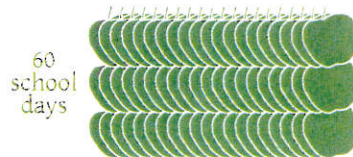
3600
minutes of reading



720
minutes of reading

By the end of sixth grade:

21,600
minutes of reading



4320
minutes of reading

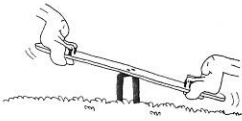
- Which student would you expect to read better?
- Which student would you expect to know more?
- Which student would you expect to write better?
- Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary?
- Which student would you expect to be more successful in school and life?
- How do you think each student will feel about himself as a learner?



Home & School CONNECTION[®]

Working Together for School Success

Nash Elementary School
Jennifer Hannig, Reading Specialist



SHORT NOTES

Excellent attendance

Being in school every day means your child won't miss out on learning. Try to schedule appointments and family trips outside of school hours. If he asks to stay home "just because," remind him of what he'll miss, such as his reading group or PE class. Explain that he can be absent only if he's sick or if there's a family emergency.

DID YOU KNOW?

Children who regularly eat meals with their families tend to do better in school and avoid risky behavior.

Eating dinner together is great, but other meals count, too. If you work at night, maybe you could make time for a family breakfast. Or on a weekend, try a picnic lunch!

Celebrate progress

Suggest that your youngster create a fun reminder of all the things she has accomplished. Let her cover a container with construction paper and label it "I did it!" Then, she can write each success ("I learned to add fractions") on a slip of paper and put it in the container. If she's feeling discouraged, have her read the slips.

Worth quoting

"The best way to cheer yourself up is to try to cheer somebody else up!"
Mark Twain

JUST FOR FUN

Q: Can a kangaroo jump higher than the Empire State Building?

A: Of course. The Empire State Building can't jump!



Conversations about school

When you think of parent involvement, do you picture moms and dads volunteering in classrooms? That's one way to help—but research shows that supporting your child's education at home is even more important. Here are four conversations that will help you stay involved.

"Let's see what you brought home."

Look at completed work to find out what your youngster is learning and how well she's doing. You could comment on her social studies report or pottery project, for instance. ("You know a lot about our state's history!") Also, respond to notes from her teacher, and sign her weekly folder or daily planner if required.

"Show me what you have for homework."

It's your child's job to do her homework, but you play a role, too. Make sure she knows what she's supposed to do by having her explain the assignments to you. After she finishes her homework, glance over the work to see that it's complete.

"Describe a book you enjoyed today."

This gives you an idea of what your youngster prefers to read. Then, build a daily reading habit by asking what she'd like to read tonight. Encourage her reading and listening skills by reading aloud to her and letting her read to you.

"Tell me what you learned that you'd like to know more about."

Use her interests as jumping-off points for activities to share. If she likes geometry, you might do tangrams



together. If she's fascinated by how animals adapt to winter, take her to the library to research the subject or to the zoo to see live animals.♥

After-school questions

Asking "How was school today?" might not get you far. Instead, ask questions like these for a better picture of your youngster's day:

- "What's the coolest thing that happened? What wasn't so cool?"
- "Pretend you're the teacher. How would you describe the day?"
- "What made you laugh?"
- "What was the most creative thing you did?"
- "How were you kind or helpful today? Was anyone kind or helpful to you?" ♥



What does respect look like?

Your child's daily dealings with adults and kids alike will be more pleasant if he speaks and acts respectfully. Try these tips for helping him learn respect.

Respectful replies. Think about something that you and your youngster disagree on (say, whether his video game time should be limited). Model having a respectful discussion about it. You might say that his brain and body are growing and that he needs to run and play to stay healthy. Then, suggest a respectful response, such



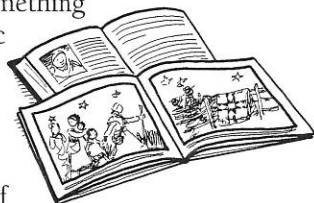
as, "I want to be healthy, but I love video games." Have him brainstorm other situations where people have different opinions but still speak to each other with respect.

Everyday acts. When you mow the lawn or clean up after your dog, you can teach your youngster about respect for neighbors. Explain that keeping your neighborhood clean and neat makes it nice for everyone. Ask him to think of other respectful things neighbors should do. If you share an apartment laundry room, he might say that you respect neighbors' time by removing your clothes when they're done so others get to use the washers and dryers.♥

A reading challenge

By reading more complex books, your child can learn new words, facts, and ideas. He'll also be exposed to more complicated plots and will grow as a reader. Share these suggestions:

- Knowing something about the topic or setting will make a tougher book easier to comprehend. If your youngster is reading a novel set in China, he could talk to someone who has been there or look up the country online (try a children's site like *kids.nationalgeographic.com*).



- Encourage your child to look at a simpler book on the same subject. A picture-book biography about Harriet Tubman may help your youngster better understand a textbook chapter on the civil rights movement, for instance.

- Suggest that your child read complicated material with pencil and paper in hand. He can jot down questions, words to look up, or facts he wants to learn more about.♥



Q & A

Strong study habits

Q: My third grader has to spend more time studying this year. How can I make sure she studies effectively?

A: Set your daughter up for success by helping her find a distraction-free study spot. Also, have her come up with a study routine. For instance, she could reserve time each evening to review her textbook and notes in the days leading up to a test or quiz.

Also, many students find it helpful to jot down a purpose each time they study. Your child might write: "I will learn the definitions of all the boldfaced words in chapter 7, section 1."

Finally, encourage her to experiment with study strategies to find what works best. She could close his eyes and imagine how a word is spelled or draw a grid with 9 squares to solve 3 x 3. Or she might find it easier to spell or recite math facts aloud in rhythm or to a familiar tune.♥



PARENT TO PARENT

Talking to kids about money

My children were always asking to buy things like dress-up shoes or new games. They didn't seem to understand that these items weren't in our budget.

I wanted them to learn about how we spend our money—and that it is limited. So I got a spiral notebook and labeled it "Family Spending Journal." I explained that for two weeks, everyone would keep a record of what they spent money on. I listed items like my

subway fare, the electric bill, and food at the grocery store. The children wrote down expenses such as school lunch, soccer cleats, and field trip fees.

After a few days, they were surprised by how many things we needed money for. Our kids had no idea, for example, that we paid for taxes on our income, several types of insurance, and membership in our homeowners' association. Sometimes they still ask to buy too many things at the store, but when I say no, at least they understand why.♥



OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

Resources for Educators, a division of CCH Incorporated
128 N. Royal Avenue • Front Royal, VA 22630
540-636-4280 • rfeustomer@wolterskluwer.com
www.rfeonline.com

ISSN 1540-5621