**FIVE “MUST DO’S” FOR PARENTS TO ASSURE SUCCESS IN HIGH SCHOOL**

1.       **GET AND STAY CONNECTED.**Register and access our online parent access software, monitor your child’s progress on a weekly basis and communicate with your child’s teachers if you have questions, concerns, or if you’d like to request additional information regarding resources that may help your child master course standards.  Be aware of what’s happening in your student’s school life and *TALK ABOUT IT*.  Your interest and involvement has a tremendous effect on your student’s performance and attitude at school.

**2.      ESTABLISH A SOLID HOME STUDY ROUTINE.**  Encouraging and supporting this vital activity will improve your student’s attitude and performance at school and instill a work ethic that endures for a lifetime.  SET A SCHEDULE.  Establish a regular timeslot for this important daily activity.  Seek your child’s agreement and commitment to reserve this time each day for homework and study.  Encourage this discipline.  CREATE THE ENVIRONMENT.  Students can be easily distracted.  Teach them to create an atmosphere conducive for concentration.  Minimizing social media access, loud music, and other detractors will improve effectiveness and retention.  Having a defined study area works with some students but not all.  The most important factor is the discipline of doing it every day.  OBSERVE AND ENGAGE.  Psychologists suggest that it takes three weeks to break or establish a habit.  Commit three weeks to assisting with your student’s daily routine.  Make good homework practices a habit for both of you.

**3.      MAKE DAILY ATTENDANCE THE EXPECTATION:**  Very few things have as much negative effect on academic performance as poor attendance.  Be clear in your attitude towards attending school every day.  In the working world, attendance is equated with dependability.

**4.    ENCOURAGE EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY:**  Involvement in any of our many clubs, sports, and arts programs improves academic performance, attendance, and discipline issues.  We have something for everyone.  Participation in these activities enhances school life and looks good on career and college applications.  Also, help your child plan and execute community service, which is a requirement for earning Bright Futures scholarship money.

**5.    HELP YOUR STUDENT PLAN FOR POST-GRADUATION:**  Talk to your student about career interests and passions.  Several online career questionnaires are available such as <http://www.careeroutlook.us/assessment/short.shtml>  that may help.  Assist with a search for colleges or technical training programs that will prepare them for a career that interests them. Learn the entrance requirements and costs associated with attending those colleges or programs.  Help your child establish a career goal then plan backward for how to achieve that goal.  Share what your hopes and dreams were when you were in high school and suggest family members and friends that they can talk to for insight and guidance.  They should be asking questions about career opportunities but may not know the right questions to ask.  Our guidance counselors can help.  No matter what they dream of doing after graduation, planning for the next step is a wise choice.  Post high school education contributes to a better quality of life.  But whether or not they go on to a college, university, career or technical school, the information and skills they learn in high school will always be important in the working world.  Everyone, in every kind of job, needs to be able to write and speak clearly, listen carefully, understand what is written and spoken, and use math effectively.

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