

# "Instructional Support Weekly"

Topic: Getting Students to Complete Homework and Self-Monitor

Math Homework: Motivate Students through Reinforcers, Interesting Assignments, Homework Planners, and Self-Monitoring

(1) Reinforcers: Allow students to earn a small reward (e.g., additional free time) when they turn in all homework assignments for the week.

(2) 'Real-life' Assignments: Make homework meaningful by linking concepts being taught to students' lives. In a math lesson on estimating area, for example, give students the homework task of calculating the area of their bedroom and estimating the amount of paint needed to cover the walls.

(3) Homework Planner: Teach students to use a homework planner to write down assignments, organize any materials (e.g., worksheets) needed for homework, transport completed homework safely back to school, and provide space for parents and teachers to communicate about homework via written school-home notes.

(4) Student Self-Monitoring: Direct students to chart their homework completion each week. Have students plot the number of assignments turned in on-time in green, assignments not turned in at all in red, and assignments turned in late in yellow.

To get students to complete and bring in homework or to finish long-range assignments:

- Help the student to prioritize assignments by importance and deadline.
- Establish a homework contract with the student's parent (in coordination with the school, the parent records the student's completion of homework and provides daily and/or weekly rewards).
- Have the student write homework assignments into a daily planner. Check the planner at the end of each day to ensure that the student has written down all assignments accurately. Check also that the student has all necessary textbooks, materials, etc.
- Discuss with the parent the student's need for an organized study area at home, as well as the benefit of a fixed nightly schedule for completing homework.
- Conference with the student to break long-range assignments into shorter subtasks. Help the student to construct a timeline/schedule for completing these subtasks.

Have a great week!

From the Instructional Support Team at STM

Bryan, T., & Sullivan-Burstein, K. (1998). Teacher-selected strategies for improving homework completion. Remedial & special Education, 19, 263-275,

Wright, Jim. Accommodating All Students: 'Classic' Ideas That Teachers Can Use to Diversify Classroom Instruction. November 5, 2008.

<http://interventioncentral.com/htmldocs/interventions/genAcademic/classic.php>