

HW Theory

There are rumors out there that it would be nice to have a single portal to which parents can go to and insure their child's homework notes have been written down properly, understood properly, and can be executed properly. As a homeschool parent, I totally get this. All of us want optimal success for our children- especially as they present before peers, but in stepping in to insure they find success at school possibilities for growth in diligence and self-government is lost. This is one of our goals for WC middle and high school students. To give the opportunity to learn and practice navigating class, notes, HW, etc on their own.

Teaching is a science and an art. As a science it involves basic laws. As an art, it involves knowing the exceptions to the laws. There are exceptions in telling students – or doing for students- what they can learn to do for themselves. There are also the exceptions that parents are better aware than are teachers. There are more exceptions in what possibilities that a teacher sees in a student who does not have a parent present upon whom to lean. Finding this fine line of what the student is capable of and where the parent needs to step in is our most tender quests, and one that all of our WC instructors takes very seriously. Our goal is to encourage our students to get involved in the challenging process of learning which necessitates experiencing failure.

In finding moments of failure (not having understood the HW fully or written complete notes, or etc and not having mom/dad able to pick up the slack for them- the child feels there is no way they can succeed with their limited information brought home, and they are correct. They come to class ill prepared and with HW improperly completed to which we are able to acknowledge the short coming of their current methodology and work with them on creating improved methods towards success. In this finding of failure we are able to breathe truth into them. “Yes, you did fail on this, BUT I BELIEVE IN YOU, you are going to make it, I recognize your efforts, and trust you to make suggested changes toward becoming your best.” THEN a child can find success- THEIR success. When a parent leads them to success it feels great not to fail, but it is not theirs, no growth takes place, and the cycle continues. It is kind of like the saying that we ‘cannot appreciate the light without experiencing darkness.’

WC is a different approach toward education in that effort and hard work are our goals. If a child wants to become better from within themselves then, together, we can do great things. If dad/mom wants them to become better and holds the child accountable, when the child does not hold him/herself accountable, the words of encouragement from a third party are far less effective. We don't even see the need in most cases. We do not view the child's success/failure of organization as connected to the input/love of a parent. We do not grade the child's quality of work as connected to the parent's quality of work. We do not encourage a child to work harder based upon the parent's work ethics/attempts.

Our roles, as parents, are to keep our child(ren) ‘in play’. This means (you) knowing that they do have a minimum of 20 minutes of HW per subject per day; that you keep up with any emails sent; that you remind them to pack their bookbags, etc the night before; that you help them set up schedules and organize their days by creating systems- as well as a parent- (quick) check method to insure that work is done with character, quality effort, diligence, and the student's best.

It does not mean that every question is correct- we will spot check often enough to notice when a student is ‘playing the system’ and then we will talk with them to offer them a chance to make personal choice changes. If this falls on deaf ears then we will reach out to dad/mom to formulate a plan of success. Ultimately, we need our student's to find success often enough to realize the incredible sense of righteousness and accomplishment to make them want more of the same.