



If you have questions or concerns about your child's schooling, you can find useful information about each school and the entire district on the SOM district website at: www.somds.k12.nj.us . If you do not use a computer, look at the School Calendar for important school information, dates, and phone numbers. A calendar is distributed to all families with children enrolled in school at the beginning of each school year. The most effective schooling involves a partnership between the student, teacher, and parent.



The Coalition on Race

The Coalition is a private, non-profit organization in Maplewood and South Orange, NJ promoting diversity and inclusiveness in housing patterns and community involvement. The Schools Committee is one of several committees of the Coalition. Its focus is to work toward a school district that is stably integrated overall, within academic levels, and within schools. Committee members envision a time when students of all races are expected and encouraged to excel in a community that is proud and supportive of its students. This brochure is provided in support of that vision as part of the Coalition's Aim High! Focus on the Minority Achievement Gap program.



P. O. Box 1309
Maplewood, NJ 07040
973.761.6116
For additional information,
please visit:
www.twotowns.org

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SOUTH ORANGE | MAPLEWOOD
COMMUNITY COALITION ON RACE

Top Ten Tips For Supporting Your Elementary School Child's Academic Achievement



Family involvement in education gives children a tremendous advantage. Your support and guidance will be an example to your children of the value that you place on their education and of your commitment to their success in school. Look inside for tips on what you can do at home to help your children succeed and how you can be involved in their school life.

MAKING **A+** DIFFERENCE



“YOUR INVOLVEMENT WILL HAVE A PROFOUND EFFECT ON YOUR CHILD’S SUCCESS IN SCHOOL”

-Brian Osborne, Superintendent, School District of South Orange & Maplewood, NJ

Showing interest in your children’s education by being supportive at home and involved in their schools has a powerful influence on student success. According to the National PTA, there is over 30 years worth of research to support “the profound and comprehensive benefits...when parents and family members become participants in their children’s education and their lives,” regardless of socio-economic status, ethnic/racial background, or the parents’ education level. These benefits include:

- Higher grades and test scores
- More homework completed
- Better attendance
- More positive attitudes and behavior
- Higher expectations of students whose parents collaborate with teachers
- Enrollment in more challenging academic programs
- Greater academic persistence
- Improved social skills
- Fewer placements in remedial or special education
- Higher graduation rates
- Greater enrollment in post-secondary education

TOP TEN TIPS FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

- 1 Set high expectations for your child.**
Tell your child you know he/she can excel at school.
- 2 Project a positive image of school and education.** *Show your child that you believe education is important by saying positive things about school.*
- 3 Read to your child everyday and listen to your child read.** *Read books that advance your child’s understanding and vocabulary.*
- 4 Monitor your child’s academic progress.** *Review homework and projects; talk over test results and report cards. Make sure your child gets to school on time, well-rested, and prepared.*
- 5 Check that daily homework and projects are complete.** *Provide a good place to do homework that limits distractions. Check backpacks daily for new assignments, upcoming projects.*
- 6 Encourage play, healthy eating, exercise, and fun activities .** *Everyone needs a break from work!*
- 7 Communicate with your child every day.** *Find out what he/she is learning. Who are your child’s friends? Are there problems with bullying, cliques or being left out? Listen to your child.*
- 8 Advocate for your child.** *Meet the teacher(s). Go to back-to-school night and parent-teacher conferences. Stay in touch with school through notes, phone calls, emails and visits.*
- 9 Become involved with your child’s school.** *Join the PTA/HSA, attend school events. Find experienced parents who can answer your questions - they are great resources!*
- 10 Plan ahead for your child’s academic career.** *Ask about challenging opportunities if your child is performing above grade level. Seek tutoring and in-school support if your child is struggling.*