



MAHOPAC MIDDLE SCHOOL
425 Baldwin Place Road
Mahopac, NY 10541
(845) 621-1330
FAX: (845) 628-5847
mahopac.k12.ny.us



Dennis W. Creedon, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Christine Shea-Coelho
Special Ed Admin/CSE

Vincent Di Grandi
Principal

Anna O'Connor
Assistant Principal

Helen Horvitz
Assistant Principal

OUR CHILDREN, OUR SCHOOL, OUR FUTURE

What to Do When Extra Help is Needed

If your child is struggling, you certainly want to help. Your child's teacher wants to help too. What can you do to make things better?

1. Talk to your child about struggles in school. Try to determine if the issue is related to lack of interest, poor organizational or study skills, gaps in learning, or something else.
2. Have your student show you their work. What do the contents of their backpack look like? Are they doing their homework? Are they doing poorly on graded assignments? How is their organization? Do they have a homework pad?
3. Take a close look at teacher feedback that you have received. What comments are made on report cards and progress reports? That feedback will yield important information.
4. Contact your child's teacher to confirm your findings. "I noticed that my son/daughter isn't doing well on weekly quizzes." Depending on your child's age and maturity, students may have this conversation with their teacher. Practice it at home. Self-advocacy is an important skill that we must teach to our students.
5. Develop a plan with your child and his/her teacher to improve the situation.
6. All teachers are willing and able to help your child outside of class time. If your child needs extra help, have him/her find out when it is available and then have your child attend. It helps to go with specific questions rather than saying, "I don't understand." And, it is best not to always wait until the day before the project is due or the test is being given.
7. To make the most of extra help, have your child be as specific as possible. Don't say, "I don't understand the social studies." It is better to say, "I memorized the definition of nationalism but I don't really know what that means."
8. Take advantage of opportunities to be in touch with your child's teacher, both through technology and in person. For example, attending back to school nights and parent-teacher conferences are important.
9. If your intervention and the extra help of your teacher are still not enough, consider contacting your child's counselor or administrator. We likely have the other extra supports from which your child would benefit.

All students face challenges in school. Struggle and perseverance are important parts of learning. Working together, we will ensure that every child is successful.