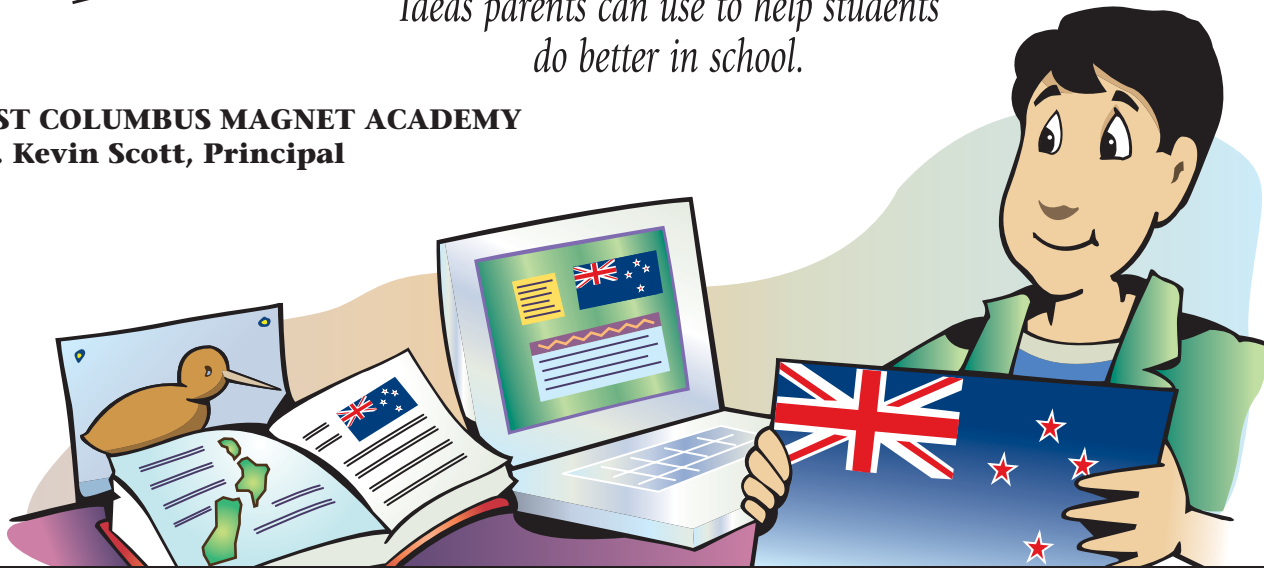


Daily Learning Planner

*Ideas parents can use to help students
do better in school.*

EAST COLUMBUS MAGNET ACADEMY
Mr. Kevin Scott, Principal



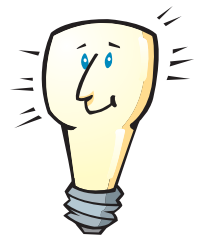
THE
PARENT
INSTITUTE®

June • July • August • 2009

June 2009

Daily Learning Planner: Ideas Parents Can Use to Help Students Do Better in School—Try a New Idea Every Day!

- 1. Make a TV viewing schedule. Choose shows you and your child will watch together.
- 2. Teach your child how to make his favorite food.
- 3. Teach your child how to play chess or checkers.
- 4. Give your child a hug today.
- 5. If your child could learn anything this summer, what would it be?
- 6. Read the same mystery book as your child. Talk about it.
- 7. Ask your child to think about her accomplishments.
- 8. Talk about the meaning of H₂O (water) with your child.
- 9. Tell your child one specific thing you love about him.
- 10. See if your child can think of a business to start this summer.
- 11. With your child, pick an important news event to follow for a day or two. Talk about what you have learned.
- 12. As you drive, talk about traffic safety with your child.
- 13. Challenge your child to find out more about your community's history.
- 14. Ask your child to name the senators from your state.
- 15. Challenge your child to walk someplace instead of being driven.
- 16. Brainstorm about an issue with your child. For example, how could your family save money on electricity?
- 17. Encourage your child to keep active this summer by swimming, walking or running. Go with her.
- 18. Ask your child to record his summer. He can keep a journal, take photos, or make a video.
- 19. Talk with your child about dating. Share your values and standards.
- 20. Visit a farmer's market with your child. Buy some fresh vegetables and make a salad for dinner.
- 21. Invent something with your child.
- 22. Does your child have a summer reading list from school? Check out a book on the list from the library.
- 23. Call out words from the dictionary during breakfast. Take turns guessing how to spell and define them.
- 24. Designate a surprise week during which family members do nice things for each other.
- 25. Discuss solutions for a family problem. Have everyone voice any suggestions that come to mind.
- 26. If your family could have any animal as a pet, discuss what it would be.
- 27. Help your child plan a gathering for friends, such as a "create-your-own-sundae" party.
- 28. Visit an outdoor site with your child today, such as a garden or a park.
- 29. Give your child a newspaper article. Have her circle all of the adjectives.
- 30. Watch the news before dinner. During the meal, have each person express an opinion about a story.



Helping Students Learn®
Tips Families Can Use to Help Students Do Better in School

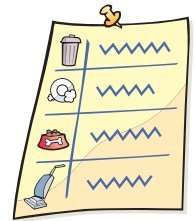
Middle School Edition

July 2009

Daily Learning Planner: Ideas Parents Can Use to Help Students Do Better in School—Try a New Idea Every Day!

- 1. Ask your child to count how many fruits and vegetables your family eats in a day. Fewer than five? Try to improve.
- 2. Give your child an IOU for time to spend together.
- 3. Check out an astronomy book at the library. Familiarize yourselves with constellations and planets.
- 4. Make a family tree with your child.
- 5. Tell your child why you value education.
- 6. Visit a museum and have each family member pick a favorite work of art.
- 7. Take a walk with your child tonight. Look for the planets and constellations you read about.
- 8. Talk with your child about your priorities.
- 9. Quiz family members on geography.
- 10. Can your child name all 50 states? Help him.
- 11. Visit a nursery with your child. Let her pick out a plant and ask how much water and sun it needs. Let her care for it.
- 12. Take a hike with your child. Enjoy the fresh air.
- 13. Do something you've never done before with your child. Try a new food. Listen to a new type of music. Visit a new place.
- 14. Teach your child a useful new skill, such as how to do laundry.
- 15. Write your child a letter about the day he was born.
- 16. Ask your family to pick one habit they'd like to change. Practice the new habit for 21 days to help it "stick."
- 17. Ask your child to plan one thing she wants to do before school starts. Make arrangements to do it.
- 18. Make up questions about articles in the newspaper. Use a timer to see how fast your child can find the answers.
- 19. Explore an old cemetery with your child. Talk about the time periods on the headstones.

- 20. Call out a math question as you toss your child a ball. See if he can say the answer before he catches it.
- 21. Does your child have a curfew? Talk about your expectations when your child is out with friends.
- 22. Ask your teen to mow a lawn for a neighbor just to be kind.
- 23. Help your child make a to-do list. When she completes each item, she should check it off.
- 24. Tell your child you love him today.
- 25. Let your child take over a new responsibility.
- 26. Have your child start an "anger diary." She can write down when and why she gets angry and how she handles it.
- 27. Go on a picnic with your child today.
- 28. Make up a story with your child. Take turns adding sentences.
- 29. Discuss recent world events at the dinner table.
- 30. Cut out a review of a kids' movie. Suggest seeing it together.
- 31. Encourage your child to invite a friend along for a family activity.



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Middle School Edition

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August 2009

Daily Learning Planner: Ideas Parents Can Use to Help Students Do Better in School—Try a New Idea Every Day!

- 1. Have your child list five goals he wants to accomplish this school year. Post them.
- 2. Help your child establish a "study nook" for the new year.
- 3. Look through old family albums. Tell your child stories about her relatives.
- 4. Let your child choose a recipe to follow from a cookbook.
- 5. Keep the TV turned off all day today.
- 6. If your child uses a computer, ask him to teach you about it.
- 7. Put on a family talent show.
- 8. Ask your child what she thinks is the greatest invention.
- 9. Teach your child how to balance a checkbook.
- 10. Does your child have a key to your house? If not, have one made.
- 11. Tell your child a story that teaches a moral lesson.
- 12. Plant a family garden. Agree on what to plant.
- 13. Suggest that your child start going to bed and getting up at the same times he will during the school year.
- 14. Give your child a budget for buying back-to-school clothes.
- 15. Thank your child for helping out with chores today.
- 16. Plan a fantasy worldwide trip with your child. Use a map to pick destinations. Think what you'd like to do in each place.
- 17. Take a trip to the library with your child.
- 18. Ask your child to guess the length of a table. Measure to see if she's right.
- 19. Look for a tobacco ad. Have your child redesign it to show what can happen when people use the product.



- 20. Ask your child to pay attention to things he might not usually notice about a book. When was it published?
- 21. Have a "stay-up-late-read" night. Let your child stay up as late as she wants, as long as she's reading.
- 22. Look at maps in an atlas. Have your child help find the shortest route from one city to another.
- 23. Challenge your child to classify each living animal she sees: *amphibian, mammal, bird, reptile, fish, insect or crustacean*.
- 24. Have your child play you his favorite song. Play a song you loved at his age.
- 25. Explain to your child the concept of banks charging interest for loans. What is the current interest rate?
- 26. Have your child guess how much something weighs. Weigh it to see if he's right.
- 27. Suggest your child write a thank-you note to someone who has helped her.
- 28. Talk with your child about what character traits he has that will eventually help him in the workplace.
- 29. Think of something your child and you would like to learn. Check out a how-to book at the library.
- 30. Discuss a TV commercial your child and you see. Talk about the sales techniques it uses.
- 31. With your child, name three things she can do to protect her safety, such as always being with a buddy.

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