• Begin to prepare as soon as the assessment is announced and review nightly
• Read the study guide, complete practice problems, review completed assignments and notes
• Make a quizlet or flashcards
• Check in with a teacher during TAG to be sure you are on the right path, and as needed to help understand the material

Technology Recommendations
Encourage your child to complete homework in a tech free space as much as possible, utilizing technology for homework purposes only. Remind them that their work will be completed more efficiently and to a higher quality if they do not try to multitask.
• Remove phone from work space
• Turn off texting/alerts on iPad or Computer
• Allow for tech breaks in between assignments, if needed

How Your Child Should Pack Up At Night
• Pack bag at night, after completing assignments.
• Check schedule:
  ▶ If you have Health and Wellness be sure to pack up gym clothes and sneakers
  ▶ If you have a team sport be sure to have your equipment, uniform, etc.
  ▶ If you have Orchestra, place your instrument with your backpack
  ▶ If you have TAG, plan what you want to do and which teacher you want to see
• Charge iPad every night
• Leave packed bag and charging Ipad in the same location every night, perhaps by the front door. Grab them both as you are on your way out the door.
• Double check work space and printer to make sure nothing is left behind.

Developing Independent Middle School Students
Middle school students mature and develop at different paces. Some students arrive home from school and independently complete their homework assignments. Other students require various levels of support to use organizational strategies. The process towards independence takes time. The goal is to allow your child to learn/internalize a process with your support and then to remove the supports and foster independence.

Parent Advice: 
Developing Independent Students
For more tips and resources, visit:
Academics: Student Support Services Page
https://www.d-e.org/page/academics/student-support-services
Developing Independent Middle School Students

Middle school students mature and develop at different paces. Some students arrive home from school and independently complete their homework assignments. Other students require various levels of support to use organizational strategies. The process towards independence takes time. The goal is to allow your child to learn/internalize a process with your support and then to remove the supports and foster independence.
Questions to Ask for a Thoroughly Completed Homework

- Did you check the “completed assignment” with the instructions/rubrics/guidelines the teacher posted or handed out?
- Math:
  - Did you show your work/steps?
  - Is it legible?
- Writing:
  - Did you answer all of the questions?
  - Did you use complete sentences?
  - Did you edit for GUM?
  - Did you read your work out loud?
- Annotations:
  - If your teacher asked you to annotate for specific ideas, have you done so and are your comments relevant and thorough.

Long Term Assignments

- Break down the assignment into manageable, nightly chunks
- Schedule these nightly chunks for the week, balancing school work with extracurricular activities and other commitments
- Be sure to work on the assignment for each night that you scheduled yourself to do so
- Review the guidelines/rubrics each time you work on the assignment
- Start the assignment the night it is assigned-- this allows for time to ask clarifying questions and helps to estimate how long the assignment will take

Please turn over for more tips

Profile

- Inconsistently writes homework in myHomework and/or is often unclear about assignments or their details
- Does not utilize tools such as MyDE or peer, teacher or parent support
- Does not fully utilize TAG as a support
- This child may complete work too quickly or may struggle to stay on task and/or to complete assignments in a reasonable amount of time
- Assignments may be incomplete, incorrectly completed, of poor quality, or frequently lost

Next Steps

- Goal: move from active, daily, side-by-side modeling of effective homework-completion behaviors, to daily "sidebar coaching" with leading questions, to periodic coaching
- Set up some clear expectations and a consistent plan: designate a workspace, check-in daily, compare myHomework and MyDE, create an afternoon/evening schedule that include daily activities, breaks, meals
- If your child is rushing through their work: ask to see completed assignments, set timer to 20 minutes and student has to spend that amount of time on the assignment
- There may be push back: remind your child you are here to help and to avoid them having to redo assignments, set up a time table for pulling back your support
- When you see they are doing more of this on their own you can check in every other day

Profile

- Writes most homework in myHomework when in class
- Will check MyDE, email peers or teachers with a nudge from a parent
- Utilizes TAG when requested by a teacher
- Might ask a parent for content support for an assignment
- Perhaps not a self starter, but once the ball is rolling they will complete their work

Next Steps

- Check in frequently
- Help your child create a homework place and a routine
- Be sure they know you are available to guide, help navigate and support
- Make every attempt not to “take over”
- Do not fix the content – ask questions to prompt further development of ideas or encourage them to reach out to a teacher or look at the rubric, handout/guidelines for the assignment
- Ask them how they did or will utilize TAG

Profile

- Writes homework in myHomework when in class and checks it against MyDE once at home
- Utilizes TAG - they initiate seeing teachers
- Emails peers or teachers for clarification
- Completes quality assignments in a timely manner
- Utilizes rubrics/directions/handouts to ensure assignment is thoroughly completed
- Uses designated homework place, without distractions (social media, phone/chat group, etc)

Next Steps

- Smile and be grateful!
- Ask for a “tour” of myHomework or MyDE
- Give positive feedback on the effort they put forth
- You can ask them in depth, thought provoking follow up questions about their work
- Check in once in a while to see how things are going and offer support
- There may be a bump in the road. Remind your child that this is a normal part of learning ~ remind them of all of the supports they have available to them
Questions to Ask for a Thoroughly Completed Homework

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Tips

Profile

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Profile

- Somewhat Independent

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- Utilizes TAG when requested by a teacher
- Might ask a parent for content support for an assignment
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Profile
- Child A: Not Yet Independent
- Child B: Somewhat Independent
- Child C: Independent

Next Steps
- Child A: No specific next steps
- Child B: No specific next steps
- Child C: No specific next steps

Tips
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- Give positive feedback on the effort they put forth
- You can ask them in depth, thought provoking follow up questions about their work
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Please turn over for more tips
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