

## How You Can Help Your Child at Discovery

Below are some ideas of what you can do to help your student stay organized and on track while staying informed with what their homework is and how they are doing in class.

**Teachers:** Contacting teachers is the best way to learn how your student is doing academically and behaviorally in school. Teachers can also give you insight on how you can help your student in their specific class. The best way to contact teachers is by email. You can get their email addresses (and some have websites) from Discovery's website: <http://disco.vansd.org> or you can call the school at 360-313-3300. Email addresses are [first.last@vansd.org](mailto:first.last@vansd.org). You can email teachers regularly to see how your student is doing, to get grade print outs, and learn of assignments and homework.

**Learning Guide:** All students have been given a learning guide for them to track their assignments for class (it is an orange planner with a sunflower on it). All core teachers put assignments on the board for students to write in their learning guide. Teachers can also initial students learning guides, if requested. This can allow you to see what they are working on and if there is any homework in a class. If students have lost their learning guide, they can purchase another one for \$5 at the business office.

**Check lists:** Students can fill out a daily (pink) or weekly (blue) check list. These can be picked up in the main office. Teachers initial these lists at the end of the period and return them to students.

**Homework Club:** The homework club meets from 8-8:50 every school day in the Toolbox (library) to work on homework. Students can sign up for the homework club by picking up and turning in the permission slip to the main office.

**Access Account:** You can go online and check your student's current grades by setting up an access account. You need to come into the main office to verify your identity and fill out a simple form to set up a Family Access Account.

**Binder:** Sit down with your student and go through their binder. Make sure they have folders with pockets for every class. Find a system that does not require them to three hole punch their papers, that makes sense to them, and keeps all their papers for one class in one place.

**Rewards:** It is often difficult to get your student to write in their learning guide or to fill out check sheets (they forget, they lose it, they don't want to), so setting up a reward/consequence system can help. Earning daily privileges for writing in the learning guide or completing a check list can help with these difficulties. For example, if your student completes the task they could earn friend, internet, phone, TV, or video game time for that day. Expectations, rewards and consequences need to be clearly outlined (writing them out is best).

**Counseling:** Working with your student on academic success can be a difficult, but there is support available. Counseling can be a great option in helping your student focus on school and in helping you set up a system where you can track their work and provide appropriate and consistent rewards and consequences. I have attached agencies in the area and tips to finding a good counselor. If you have any questions or need assistance in getting counseling, feel free to your student's counselor.