Ways to Create a High Expectations Culture in Your Home

- Make student academic success a family priority. That means school comes before extracurricular and social activities.
- Set completing college or other postsecondary program as the ultimate academic goal for your student.
- Commit to be actively engaged in your child's education at every stage - from birth through postsecondary - and take ownership for being a partner in your student’s success.

Your Sixth Grader’s Academic Success Begins With You

Your involvement in your child’s academic success, at every stage, opens the door to opportunities and increases their options for the future.

Do you know what your child is expected to learn in school this year? Part of being an engaged parent is knowing about key academic milestones and how you can support your child in meeting them. Here are some of the key academic skills your child will need to master in the sixth grade and ideas for ways you can supplement the learning at home.

Academic Skills

- Locate and use specific organizational features in different types of text, including: tables of contents, headings, captions, glossary, footnotes, etc.
- Describe how authors use persuasive strategies to get people to do, think or feel something.
- Analyze the key elements of a story, including: setting, characters and plot. Discuss the character's motivation and the progression of the plot.
- Identify relevant, missing or extra information in a math word problem.
- Explain and manipulate the relationship between percentages, decimals and fractions.
- Multiply and divide multi-digit decimals through the thousandths.

Activities to do at Home

- Write a letter to the editor of the newspaper about an article or issue your child feels passionate about.
- Have your child estimate how much gas will cost with a word problem such as: If our car gets 15 miles to the gallon, how much will we spend on gas if we are driving from Phoenix to Tucson (116 miles) and gas costs $3.39 per gallon?
- Have your child figure the cost of a cell phone bill with X number of calls (cost per minute) and X number of text messages (cost per text).
- Encourage your child to keep a journal to practice writing skills.