

# Middle School Guidance



## Parent Expectations Play a Big Role in Academic Success

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Numerous studies have demonstrated that socio-economic factors play a major role in students' success in kindergarten.

Higher parental expectations had resulted in students having better jobs and higher incomes as well as having better math and reading skills than their peers. "Parents who saw college in their child's future seemed to manage their child toward that goal irrespective of their income and other assets," states Dr. Neal Halfon who is the director of the UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities. Whether or not parents expected their children to attend college was a key factor in the children's success. Of the children with the lowest test scores, 57% were expected by

their parents to attend college; of those who scored the highest, 96% were expected to attend college. Reading and math scores are closely correlated with the socioeconomic status of the child's family: the higher the family's status, the better the child's scores in both areas. Children in lower socioeconomic groups had younger mothers, were read to less frequently by their parents, used computers at home less frequently and had few books in the home than those from higher socioeconomic classes. Other factors that must be considered are family backgrounds, health, home learning, parenting and early care and education explained over half of the gaps in

reading and math ability between children in the lowest versus highest socioeconomic category. "The findings suggest

there are a range of behaviors that parents can adopt and services they can provide to help their young children get better prepared for their educational journey." Kandyce Larson.

### Quote of the month

"Failure is not fatal, but failure to change might be." - unknown



Happy Spring!

### Points of Interest:

- ✓ - Absent from school? Check out the teacher lesson plans by logging into PowerSchool parent portal.
- ✓ - Excuses are due the day students return to school. A grace period of three days is allowed before becoming illegal.
- ✓ - Bullying information can be found at: [www.bbsd.com/Page/16088](http://www.bbsd.com/Page/16088)

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## Important Upcoming Events

The following are a listing of important dates to remember:

**April 3, 2015** - Good Friday.

**April 5, 2015** - Happy Easter!

**April 13, 2015 - April 17, 2015** - P.S.S.A. English Language Arts Assessment testing window.

**April 20, 2015 - April 24, 2015** - P.S.S.A. Mathematics

Assessment testing window.

**April 27, 2015 - May 1, 2015** - P.S.S.A. Science Assessment testing window.

**May 13, 2015 - May 20, 2015** - Keystone Exam (Algebra 1) testing window. Eighth grade Algebra 1 class only!

**May 28, 2015** - (1:00) Middle School Awards Day.

**May 28, 2015** - N.J.H.S. Induction Program (6:30).

