

A photograph showing a female teacher with glasses and several young students of diverse backgrounds gathered around a large blue book. They are all looking at the book with interest, and one student is pointing at a page. The scene is set in a classroom.

Title I Tips

Bemidji Area Schools

Support from parents is key to helping kids do well academically. Here are some tips from “Kids Health” to help parents put their kids on track for a successful academic year.

Teach Study Skills

Studying for a test can be scary for young kids, and many educators assume parents will help their kids during the grade-school years. Introducing your child to study skills now will pay off with good learning habits throughout life.

In elementary school, kids usually take end-of-unit tests in math, spelling, science, and social studies. Be sure to know when a test is scheduled so you can help your child study ahead of time rather than just the night before. You also might need to remind your child to bring home the right study materials, such as notes, study guides, or books.

Teach your child how to break down overall tasks into smaller, manageable chunks so preparing for a test isn't overwhelming. You also can introduce your child to tricks like mnemonic devices to help with recalling information. Remember that taking a break after a 45-minute study period is an important way to help kids process and remember information.

Your child probably will be introduced to standardized testing in elementary school. While students can't really study for standardized tests, some teachers provide practice tests to help ease students' worries.

Support Homework Expectations

Homework in grade school reinforces and extends classroom learning and helps kids practice important study skills. It also helps them develop a sense of responsibility and a work ethic that will benefit them beyond the classroom.

In addition to making sure your child knows that you see homework as a priority, you can help by creating an effective study environment that is comfortable, well lit and quiet. Avoiding distractions (like a TV in the background) and setting up a start and end time can also help. A good rule of thumb for effective homework and/or study periods is roughly 10 minutes for each elementary grade level. Fourth-graders, for example, should expect to have about 40 minutes of homework or studying each school night. If you find that it's often taking significantly longer than this guideline, talk with your child's teacher.

While your child does homework, you or another adult can be available to interpret assignment instructions, offer guidance, answer questions, and review the completed work. But resist the urge to provide the correct answers or complete the assignments yourself. Learning from mistakes is part of the process and you don't want to take this away from your child.

Source: Kids Health from Nemours at: <https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/school-help-elementary.html>

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Welcome to the *2019-2020 School Year!* ISD 31, Bemidji Area Schools, is proud of our highly qualified teachers with 59.0% holding Master's degrees and 97.8% in their licensure areas. When considering teaching experience, 92.3% of Bemidji Area Schools teachers are experienced educators, having taught for more than 3 years.

You have the right to request and review information from your school district on the professional qualifications of your child's teachers. The federal Every Student Succeeds Act requires schools that receive federal education funds under Title I, Part A to provide this information to you if you request it. The information must be provided to you in a reasonable amount of time. The information you may request includes the following:

- ☐ Has the teacher met state qualifications and licensing requirements for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction?
- ☐ Is the teacher providing instruction under emergency or another provisional status that means regular state qualifications or licensing criteria have been waived?
- ☐ What college degree does the teacher have, as well as any other graduate degree or certification? In what academic subject area/s were the degrees received?
- ☐ Are paraprofessionals providing instructional services to my child and if so, what are their qualifications?

The district is also required to inform you if your child receives instruction for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who does not meet the federal definition of being "highly qualified". Highly qualified teachers are those who have met state qualifications and licensure requirements. If this is the case, we will inform you.

You can also find information about your child's school, test data and teacher licensure at the Minnesota Dept. of Education's website at <http://education.state.mn.us>

If you have questions, please contact me or Kristeena Friedt in Human Resources at kristeena_friedt@isd31.net or send a request to Kristeena at:
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Sincerely,

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Be sure to visit our Website at:
<https://www.bemidji.k12.mn.us/>
See the "Parent" tab for valuable resources