EDUCATION SPOTLIGHT:

Time
to check your child's
Grades

BY DR. LESLIE STRASSER MURDOCK

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First quarter ended on October 13th 2017. While it is semester grades that become a part of a child's official report card or transcript, quarter grades can be a great indication of how a child is doing in school and any struggles a child may have thus far. Quarter grades/progress reports and even a teacher's contact information will be posted on the parent portal and/or by progress reports sent home*.*

If your child is struggling in school as indicated by failing or missing assignments or a child has unsatisfactory grade in a class (such as a D or an F), please reach out to your child's teacher (elementary school) or counselor/class teacher (middle/high school) to find out why the child is failing and how any failed or missing work can be made up. Teachers /school staff are encouraged to work with families to help children be successful in school and not fail so plans can be worked out make up missing work.

Ask your child's teacher(s) why your child isn't succeeding in the subject or class and how he/she can receive support to do better in school. At the middle and high school level, you can set up a meeting with all your child's teachers in the morning before school to go over progress in each class via your child's counselor.

Reach out to various staff members on campus to help your child get needed or helpful support in school.

Counselor, Learning Strategists, Foster Care Advocates (FCAs), and Safe School Professionals (SSPs) are available on campus to help your child be successful in school.

✓ Counselors help to make sure a child is on track to graduate or be promoted to the next grade and required to meet with secondary students periodically.

✓ Learning Strategists can put children in to special reading, language arts, and math interventions as well as work with elementary students who are not reading at grade level. Each elementary school has to have a Learning Strategist by law per the Read by 3rd Grade initiative. Middle and high schools usually have someone designated in this position to help with identifying struggling children who might need special education services and may need to be put into Response to Intervention (RTI) processes. Strategists can also be available to help struggling students.

✓ FCAs have been designated by their principals to be the school-based person trained in understanding the rights of children in the foster care system.

✓ SSPs are School Social Workers/ Mental Health Professionals whose responsibilities are to identify and coordinate school and community resources to enable students to learn

as effectively as possible in the educational setting. We have been working with the Assistant Superintendent and Coordinator over the SSPs and they have agreed to provide direct support to our children in their schools. SSPs are available to work with our children directly, attend school meetings, and even advocate for our children with school administrators. Half of all CCSD schools have SSPs.

✓ *I strongly encourage you to reach out to their children's Counselors, Learning Strategists, FCAs, and SSPs so that they can begin working with our children in school and providing needed support. Attached you will find a list of Counselors, Foster Care Advocates, and Safe School Professionals for reference. You can also call the front office and ask your child's school the name of each professional and how to reach him/her.*

If you have any other questions or concerns about your child academically, please reach out to your child's caseworker to receive support. Look for further educational tips in upcoming Couriers!