



## What's In This Issue?

Dr. Thalheimer a Long-Term Plan	1
Canceling Your Session - Please Help Us!	1
More on Completing Homework/Classwork	2
The Tutoring Center's Study Skills Program	2
Questions & Answers (Homework)	3
Writing Program and Office Corner	3
Free Tuition Incentives	4

# Family Newsletter

[www.tutoringcenter.com](http://www.tutoringcenter.com)

*The Tutoring Center has a long-term solution for your child's academic success!*

Dear Parents,

It has always been our philosophy at THE TUTORING CENTER that long-term academic planning is vital to your child's success in school. We feel strongly that in today's competitive environment, most children will need ongoing academic assistance whether they are behind grade level trying to "catch up", or well ahead of grade level. Most students need a strong foundation of academic skills.

This is why we are very proud to be the only after-school learning center that has long-term tuition reductions each year you are enrolled at one of our centers. This long-term incentive program has been extremely successful and we want to thank you for being a part of it.

Over the last two years since we began the tuition incentive program, the number of our students continuing their programs after 1 year of enrollment has increased from 10% to 40%!; and climbing steadily. Our research indicates that students enrolled with us for two years or more have much stronger academic skills, more confidence, more motivation, greater concentration, and better study skills.

### *What can your child do to prepare academically for high school and beyond?*

To prepare for high school and college, there is no substitute for your child getting a solid and broad academic education. For most children this does not come automatically. It takes years of hard work to develop strong academic skills needed for a tough schedule of **classes**. For students that have had difficulty in school in the past, The Tutoring Center may be an integral part of the process and should continue throughout school even when your child seems to be "caught up". You see, in today's academic environment being "caught up" or "within the average range" is probably not going to be enough for long term success.

This means your child should develop a strong foundation of basis academic skills in reading, math, and writing so that he or she can take challenging courses in academic subjects and maintain good grades in high school. Your child's transcript will be an important part of his or her college application.

A strong high school education builds on the knowledge and skills acquired in earlier years. It is best for your child to start planning a high school course schedule early, in the sixth, seventh or eighth grade.

**Research shows that students who complete and do well in algebra and geometry by the end of ninth grade are more likely to go to college than those who do not.** By taking these courses early, students are then prepared to take geometry, trigonometry, calculus, and science courses in high school. Because of this research, we urge families to continue their programs with us long enough to complete our college prep programs in Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2 (Continued on Page 2)

### **WE COULD USE YOUR HELP!**

*In fairness to all families who need makeup times, if you can't make it to your session, please call or e-mail your center by 12:00 to cancel. If you need to schedule a makeup session please call the center after 2:00 to see what times are available for your makeup.*



### **My child is in elementary school. Why is starting early so important?**

The academic choices you make for your children by age 14 will most likely influence the opportunities open to them long after leaving high school. Academic preparation is the first priority. Preparation beginning in elementary school leads to the best classes in middle school. This in turn leads to the most selective high school programs, graduation, college, and a career.

### **My child is an exceptional athlete. Will the road to success be easier?**

Maybe you see your child being a professional athlete in the future. More than likely it's your child that sees it more than you do. If your child is thinking along these lines, let him or her consider this:

**High School Football Player-** odds of making it to the pros are 6,000 to 1.

**High School Basketball Player-** odds of making it to the pros are 10,000 to 1.

### **My child is in middle school. Why is it so difficult for my child?**

I'm sure you've realized by now that improving in school is difficult for your child. Well, improving in middle school is even tougher. That is why about 1/2 of our students stay with us throughout middle school even though they started to really do better by the 6th grade.

### **What makes middle school so tough on kids these days?**

Middle School is a place where fewer teachers want to work, where academic challenges rise as adolescent motivation drops; where parent involvement dwindles and students' misbehavior monopolizes classroom time.

But for THE TUTORING CENTER, Middle School is a pivotal time in a child's education, when students can acquire the academic and social skills to succeed in high school and beyond. "Middle School is .....often the last best chance for getting students on the right path," said Jack Berckemeyer, a middle-grades expert and Assistant Director of the Ohio-based National Middle School Association.

Yet in a 1998 report by the Southern Regional Educational Board, found a "discouraging pattern of middle-grades underachievement nationwide."

In some states, reading scores in the last 5 years preceding the study above had risen 31 points in high schools and 34 points in elementary schools--but only 11 points in middle schools.

Maybe more importantly, student motivation falters as students become preoccupied with social concerns. Adolescence promotes teasing and bullying. Classroom misbehavior increases as students begin to flirt and test their independence.

Many parents have told me personally that they stick with our programs throughout the years to help insure that their child is getting the education they deserve. They don't rely on the school systems to make sure their children are getting a strong foundation in academic skills. Even though there are so many distractions at this young, and tough age, middle school students really appreciate their time with us over the years.

We feel strongly that these challenges can be overcome with the help of the great mentors that your children work with at our centers, rigorous academics, consistent discipline, parental involvement and dedicated instructors. We are very proud to work with you and your family throughout the years to help your child achieve academic success.

Best regards,

Edward S. Thalheimer, Ph.D., Founder  
The Tutoring Centers



## **Homework a problem? GET YOUR CHILD ON THE RIGHT TRACK THIS YEAR WITH OUR "HOMEWORK & STUDY SKILLS" PROGRAM!**

This school year you can enhance your child's regular year-round program with our "Homework/Study Skills" Program.

Is your child disorganized, can't get work completed or turned in, cannot pick out important points in school lectures or from textbooks, can't take notes, or is not successful on tests? Is your child struggling to pass his or her subjects but has pretty good academic skills? Or is your child a good student taking challenging subjects and working too many hours to maintain top grades? For all of these students the answer to easing stress and improving grades is to learn how to learn- efficiently. This is what *Homework/Study Skills* is all about. Here is what we teach your kids:

- Organization Strategies
- Communication Strategies
- Reading Comprehension Strategies
- Note-taking Strategies
- Memorization Strategies
- Test-Taking Strategies
- Homework Strategies
- Stress Management Strategies

**The best gift you can give your children is the gift of learning the tools to help them become independent. Set up an appointment now to discuss one of our most important programs.**

## Is your child having difficulty with homework writing assignments?

Would you like your child to do improve in homework writing assignments this school year? Would you like your child to write stories and reports with more confidence and motivation?

THE TUTORING CENTER'S FAST-PACED READING & WRITING PROGRAM addresses all of these needs.

Step by step, using THE TUTORING CENTER'S unique "Rotational Approach To Learning" and our exclusive one-to-one format, your child will complete writing assignments with a smile, and best of all, will begin to enjoy writing!

Writing Program:(each 60 minute session)

- 30 minutes Reading Comprehension
- 15 minutes Test Preparation Skills
- 15 minutes Writing Composition

If you feel that your child needs help in writing, come on in to see our Reading/Writing Program in more detail.

*Check out*

THE TUTORING CENTER'S  
Web Site for more information.  
[www.tutoringcenter.com](http://www.tutoringcenter.com)

## THE TUTORING CENTER Office Corner

•**Canceling your session times:** Please understand that we can not offer you a makeup session if you cancel your session after 2:00. Please call or e-mail us in advance so that we can offer your time to another family to schedule their makeup.

•**When is a good time to drop off your child at his 3:30 session?** Please do not drop your child off more than 10 minutes before your session time. Often the doors are locked or we are in meetings preparing for the children and we do not have adequate supervision in the reception room until 3:20 p.m.. We thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

•**Picking up your child late:** If you are going to be more than 15 minutes late in picking up your child from the center, please contact us to let your child know. We don't want unsupervised children waiting by the door or outside for too long.

## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

### How do I cope with chronic homework problems?

When your child consistently fails to complete homework assignments, you need to step in. Can your child usually complete assignments with extra assistance and encouragement? On most evenings, children should be able to complete assignments independently. If they seem to require more help from you than you think is reasonable, it's time to schedule an appointment with their teacher.

Explain your concerns to the teacher. Ask if your child is able to complete similar assignments in class. Keep in mind that if your child attends THE TUTORING CENTER because of week academic skills, you should anticipate that homework will continue to be a problem until your child catches up. Even if your child is behind grade level, you may need to set up a plan with the teacher to get your child back on track with homework, possibly modifying the amount of homework until your child catches up to grade level.

### A plan for improvement

While your children's specific plan for improvement must accommodate their unique circumstances, there are several key principles to follow in setting up that plan.

\* **Your children's homework is their responsibility.** Your child needs to know what the assignments are, when they are due, and how much time to plan to complete them. **HAVE YOUR CHILD TURN IN HIS "WEEKLY PERFORMANCE FORM".**

\* **Establish clear expectations.** What do you and the teacher expect your child to do? Make these expectations clear, and make sure your child understands that you and the teacher are working together to define them. Often a meeting involving you, your child, and the teacher is the best setting to establish expectations.

\* **Establish clear consequences.** Determine what will happen if your child fails to meet the expectations you and the teacher have established, and let your child know what consequences to expect. Identify several activities or privileges your children enjoy every day. When they meet the established expectations, they continue to enjoy their activities or privileges. When they don't, some or all may be suspended. When you must suspend privileges, do so matter-of-factly, without anger or emotion. Be consistent.

\* **Stay connected with your child's teacher.** A simple "note home" system is an easy and effective way to know whether your child is meeting established expectations. Your child's teacher just sends home a short note each day telling you whether your child has completed and turned in assignments. THE TUTORING CENTER also can supply your child with a Weekly Performance Form to take to his/her teacher each week. They are located in your Reception Room.

### It's never too late to start

The earlier in your child's school years that you can implement effective homework practices, the more likely you are to shape homework as a positive learning experience. But it's never too late to start. Even if your child has reached the grumbling and complaining stage, you can still turn things around. Sit down with your child at a time and in a place where there are no distractions, and explain what you plan to do and what you expect to accomplish. Involve children in your plans as much as possible.

Does your child have a favorite place or time to study? When practical, incorporate those preferences into your approach. In reality, your child doesn't like fighting about homework any more than you do. Though you may hear complaints and even encounter resistance at first, stick to your plan. Remember, stay calm and keep it positive. In the end, both you and your child will appreciate having homework as just another routine in the day.

Check out  
**THE TUTORING CENTER'S**  
web site  
for more information and franchise  
opportunities.

[www.tutoringcenter.com](http://www.tutoringcenter.com)

**We grow through reputation and parent referrals**

**GIVE A GIFT TO YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS  
THIS SCHOOL YEAR  
AND RECEIVE \$\$\$ ONE MONTH'S FREE TUITION.  
(at participating locations)**

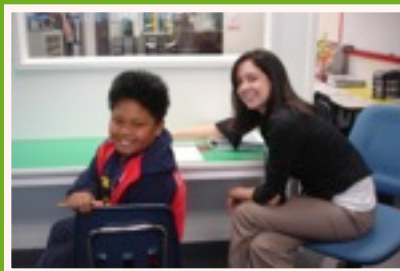
When we started **THE TUTORING CENTER'S** in 1994, we must have had the right idea because, each year, the demand for our personalized tutoring programs has increased dramatically. **THE TUTORING CENTER'S** commitment to personal attention, quality, and service have always set us apart.

As families benefit from our unique approach, they refer **THE TUTORING CENTER** to their friends and neighbors. These referrals are at the heart of our growth as we quietly expand without a flashy advertising campaign. Families recognizing the clear benefit of a "personal coach," are choosing our unique approach. We know our system works and we want to reach out to as many children as we can.

*If you know of a friend or neighbor that could benefit from our services, please tell them about our **READING, MATH AND WRITING PROGRAMS**. This will get them in the door so that they can get started with the testing process.*

***For helping us spread the word, you and your child will be awarded for each referral that enrolls in our programs. For each referral you will receive ONE FREE MONTH'S TUITION! (at participating locations) In addition, your child will receive 20 "grab bags" to use at THE TUTORING CENTER toy store.***

**Thank you very much for your help.**



**PICK UP A FLYER AND  
GUEST PASS IN YOUR  
RECEPTION ROOM  
TODAY.**

**PLEASE WRITE YOUR  
NAME ON THE FLYER OR  
GUEST PASS SO YOU AND  
YOUR CHILD WILL  
RECEIVE A REFERRAL  
CREDIT WHEN THE  
FAMILY ENROLLS.**

**THANK YOU IN ADVANCE  
FOR SPREADING THE  
WORD**

