



FIRST MONTH CHECKLIST

The First Month—now that school is back in session, ensure that students are on track and hitting the important milestones with this list:

Communicate with teachers

WHY? Don't wait until the first report card to find out that things are off track. Take 10 minutes to chat with the teacher about progress and nip any problems in the bud.

Do homework, even when there is none

WHY? Homework is a school inevitability; the sooner students learn good homework habits, the less of a struggle it is. Do homework at the same time every night, even if none was assigned. There is no such thing as no homework, ever.

Use agendas

WHY? Agendas are the number-one school organizational tool. Students should be writing homework, assignments, and to-do lists in their agendas everyday. If schools don't provide agendas, purchase one—they're that important.

Talk about school

WHY? School is a major part of kids' lives. If they are unwilling to discuss their day, something may be amiss. Talk to kids about their day and have an open dialogue about school and learning challenges.

Watch frustration/stress levels

WHY? Between learning new subjects and balancing homework, chores, and social lives, it can be easy for students to become overwhelmed. This can be very demotivating and can lead to a drop in grades. Get help as soon as it's needed.

Procrastination

WHY? Leaving work to the last minute/not wanting to do work is a sign of poor organization skills. Last-minute rushes mean poor preparation, which leads to poor grades.

Forgetting work

WHY? Forgetting work, misplacing assignments, or losing textbooks is a sure sign of an off-track student. If students are showing signs of disorganization, get help as soon as possible.

Bonus Tip!—Get in the habit of opening and sorting through book bags right after school. Students should come home, open the book bag, take out lunch boxes, and place their agenda on the table. After a snack, or chores, open the agenda and get to work!