How to Help Your Children with Reading!

A great way to improve your children’s love for education is through reading. Reading can improve memory, increase vocabulary, reduce stress, improve focus and concentration, and it can help your student to become a better communicator and writer (according to raymondgeddes.com). For high school students it can also lead to higher ACT scores.

Tips for Influencing a Desire to Read (From ebookfriendly.com):

READ DAILY: Have your child read for 30 minutes before allowing them watch TV or play video games.

JOURNAL WRITING: One’s desire to read is amplified by one’s ability to write. A WORD A DAY: Focus on expanding your child’s vocabulary, and teach them a new word each day.

DIFFERENT GENRES: Encourage them to read a variety of books from science fiction to poetry.

READ NON-FICTION: Encourage your child to read the news, and memoirs to expand their understanding of society.

BOOKS AS PRESENTS: This gives your child a sense that books are special and important.

TECHNOLOGY: There are many apps for iPads, smart phones and other technology that can help to encourage reading in children and teens.

Facts About Iowa Dropouts

Dropping out of school is one of the worst decisions a young person can make because the negative consequences can last a lifetime. Here’s how:

- Dropouts earn far less annually than high school graduates. The median annual earnings of a dropout in 2009 were about $24,500. “Median” means that half of the dropouts made even less. A high school grad had median earnings of $33,200.
- Those who start at the bottom tend to get stuck at the bottom. Median earnings for dropouts in the 25-34 age range were only $22,000. For those between the ages of 45-64, it was $26,200.
- Dropouts also experience more unemployment. Usually about half, again higher than for high school grads.
- Researchers estimate a high school dropout will earn a quarter to half a million dollars less over a lifetime than graduates will.
- Dropouts are far more likely to wind up in prison. Dropouts are 3.5 times more likely to be arrested over their lifetimes than high school graduates. Nationally, 75 percent of state prisoners and 59 percent of federal prisoners are high school dropouts.
- High school dropouts die younger. For dropouts, the death rate is 2.5 times higher than for those with a year or more of college. For white female dropouts, average life expectancy is about 73 years. For white female college grads, almost 84 years. For white males, about 67 years for dropouts and about 80 for college grads.
- An idea from the State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council is to raise Iowa’s mandatory attendance age from 16 to 18. At least 31 states require attendance beyond 16. Between 2000 and 2010, 15 states raised their mandatory attendance ages. When West Virginia raised its mandatory age from 16 to 17, the number of 16 year olds who dropped out was cut in half the very next year.
- As a society, we just can’t afford to give up on these kids, we can’t allow our schools to give up on them, and most importantly, we can’t allow them to give up on themselves.

Source: Iowa Senate Education Committee and The Des Moines Register

Calendar of Events

March
27 - Multicultural Day at HCC
   8:30AM-1:30PM - 9-12 East, West, Expo

April
6 - SAT Registration Deadline
6 - GBPAC—To Kill a Mockingbird
   10:00 AM - 9th-12th
9 - UNI Job Shadowing
   7th-8th grades from Central
18 - ACT Test Date
20 - UNI Job Shadowing
   7th-8th grades rom Carver

May
1 - Teen Summit at UNI-CUE
   All Middle School Students
2 - SAT Test Date

Tutor/ACT Prep
Every Tuesday and Thursday beginning January 13, 2015, there will be tutoring sessions for High School students. For East High School they are in room 310 from 2:45-4:35 pm, for West High School they are in room 110 from 2:45-4:35 pm, and they are also held at UNI-CUE from 6:00-7:50 pm.

There are also ACT/SAT Prep Sessions that are held at UNI-CUE every Monday and Tuesday from 4:30-6:00 pm and Thursday from 4:00-5:30 pm and from 5:30-7:00 pm. Registration is limited to seven students per session. To enroll in one of these Prep Sessions, call Gloria Galloway at 319-433-1225.

~ Thought for the day ~

Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can become great.
How do I get financial aid?

- You must file the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) by going to www.fafsa.ed.gov

When should I file the FAFSA?

- The FAFSA is available after Jan 1st.
- Many schools and scholarships have a priority deadline of March 1st.

What's the point of the FAFSA?

- The FAFSA asks personal questions about you and your parents’ income and assets in order to determine your financial need.
- Depending on your financial need you may be eligible for grants and/or loans.

What information do I need to file the FAFSA?

- You need copies of the 2014 tax returns from you and your parents of anyone who filed taxes.
- If you have not yet filed taxes you may use the previous year’s tax returns to estimate.
- If you or any of your parents’ are not going to file taxes you will want to have copies of your last 2014 pay stub or copies of your W2’s and any documents that show taxable income for 2014.

Do I have to provide my parents’ income?

- Yes. Most students are required to provide parental information.
- The most common exception for traditional students is that they have legal guardians who are not their biological parents and they have not been adopted.

What is financial need? How do I know if I have financial need?

- Financial need is the difference between the cost of attending college and how much you have available to pay for it.
- Anyone who doesn’t have sufficient funds to pay for college outright, has financial need.

Tell me more about the EFC.

- The expected Family Contribution is the dollar amount that the federal government has determined that you and your parents can contribute towards your college education next year including your living expenses. It can range from $0-$999,999.

Waterloo History Trivia Questions

1. Who was the first African-American to serve on the Waterloo Community School of Education Board?
   A. Betty Jean Ferguson  B. J. Russel Lowe  C. Dr. Robert Harvey  D. Bernice Richard

2. Who was the first African-American to be elected to the Black Hawk County Board of Supervisors?

3. Who was the first African-American to teach in the Waterloo Community Schools?
   A. Dorthy Black  B. Dr. Walter Cunningham  C. Lily Ferguson  D. Cora Harvey

4. Who was the first African-American to serve on the Waterloo City Council?
   A. Willa Mae Wright  B. Joe Collier  C. Mary Berdell  D. Deborah Berry

5. Who was the first director of the University of Northern Iowa Center for Urban Education (UNI-CUE)?
   A. Norris Hart  B. Dr. Charles Means  C. Dr. Henry Johnson  D. Ron Madsen

6. Who was the first director of the UNI Upward Bound Program?
   A. Jerry Duea  B. Mikeye Johnson  C. Inez Martha  D. Willie Criddle

7. Who was the first director of the Educational Talent Search Program?
   A. Ray Richardson  B. Tony Stevens  C. David Patterson  D. John Struthers

8. Who was the first African-American Black Hawk County judge?
   A. George Stigler  B. William Parker  C. Lorenzo Creighton  D. Bradley Harris

(Answers are on page 4)
DON’T MISS OUT!!!
Most scholarships will require you to write an essay. The topics may vary, but the most common one is to write a personal statement. The essay part of the scholarship application scares a lot of students so much that they don’t even apply for scholarships, missing out on thousands of dollars in potential scholarship money.

IT’S ALL ABOUT YOU!!!
Writing a personal statement does not have to be intimidating, you are basically writing about the topic you know best: yourself. For a good scholarship essay you’ll want to first impress them with what you have to say about yourself, then with how you say it.

BRAINSTORMING IS KEY!!!
Getting the “what” down is the first and, for most people, the hardest step. It doesn’t have to be that hard. Below is an example of the questions students need to address in their personal statement for the scholarships of the Community Foundation of Northern Iowa.

TALK IT OUT!!!
If writing does not come natural to you, then hopefully speaking does. One of the most effective strategies is to get with one or more people who support you in applying for scholarships (family members, friends, teachers, or counselors) and have them pretend they are doing an interview with you to write an article about you in the school or community paper. There are questions listed below that they can ask you. As you answer the questions, they can take notes on your answers. They should ask their own follow-up questions as needed. Their goal is to help extract enough interesting information about you to write a compelling story about who you are and who you will become. If you don’t have people to “interview” you, try interviewing yourself using the recorder on your smart phone or another device that records audio. Then as you play it back you can take notes on your answers. Talking through the questions is much easier for most people to develop ideas than writing. Organize your brainstorming and interview notes into what will make up the logical paragraphs of the essay.

DRAFT IT!!!
Following the advice in the above two sections will help you get the “what” down. Now you can start writing. Don’t obsess over grammar, spelling, punctuation, and word-count at this stage. Obsessing about those details hinders the creative process for many people. Get your thoughts down in a way that sounds good. Don’t forget to have an introduction and a conclusion. We’ve all heard about how important it is to have a catchy first line. If this is challenging for you don’t get stuck there. Start getting the content down and then go back and make it catchy.

POLISH IT UP!!!
Have someone who you know is a good writer help you with this step. He or she can help you correct grammatical and mechanical errors. He or she can also help you improve your wording and style. Do not skip this step!!! Careless errors in scholarship essays are one of the most common ways applicants are disqualified. You don’t want all of the work you have put in so far go to waste.

Scholarship and College Essay Brainstorming Questions:
1. What are your post-secondary educational goals and how do you hope to achieve them while attending college?
2. What are your long-term or career goals/plans, how do you intend to achieve them, and why did you choose these goals/plans?
3. What personal characteristics or experiences qualify you to receive this scholarship?

QUIZ YOURSELF!
The Truth about Millionaires…

1. Most Millionaires inherited their money. True or False?
2. Millionaires don’t actually work. They have people who work for them. True or False?
3. Millionaires shop in very exclusive stores, not where ordinary people shop. True or False?
4. Millionaires drive impressive cars. True or False?
5. Millionaires have lots of credit cards. True or False?

Answers are on the next page!

What is Educational Talent Search?
Educational Talent Search (ETS) is a FREE program that helps students prepare for and acquire a college education. All students who attend one of the Waterloo Community School District’s middle or high school (Bunger, Central, Hoover, George Washington Carver Academy, East, Expo or West) are eligible to apply. Services offered through the Educational Talent Search Program:
- Study Skills Workshops
- High School Course Selection
- Completion of Admissions Applications and waiver of application fees
- ACT/SAT Prep
- ACT/SAT fee waivers
- Assistance with Applying for Financial Aid
- College Tours and Cultural Fieldtrips
- Career Planning
- Career Exploration/Job Shadowing
- GED Information
- Tutoring
- Secondary School Reentry
- Scholarship Searches
- Financial and Economic Literacy
Scholarship Resources

Local Scholarship Resources

Educational Talent Search Program Staff (319-433-1240)
High School Counselors
West High online Scholarship Listing:
  http://www.waterloo.k12.ia.us/schoolsites/westhigh/academics/counselor-services/
East High online Scholarship Listing:
  http://www.waterloo.k12.ia.us/schoolsites/easthigh/scholarships/

Area College and University Scholarship Resources

University of Northern Iowa: www.uni.edu/finaid/
University of Iowa: http://www.uiowa.edu/financial-aid/
Iowa State University: http://www.financialaid.iastate.edu/
Warburg College: http://www.wartburg.edu/financialaid/scholarships.aspx
Hawkeye Community College: http://www.hawkeyecollege.edu/
Be sure to check the financial aid website at each of the schools you are applying to.

Iowa Scholarship Resources

Iowa College Access Network – www.ICANsucceed.org
Iowa College Aid Commission - www.iowacollegeaid.gov
I Have A Plan Iowa: www.ihaveaplaniowa.gov

National Scholarship Resources

www.finaid.org
www.fastweb.com
www.scholarships.com
www.schoollsoup.com
www.uncf.org (United Negro College Fund)
www.hsf.net (Hispanic Scholarship Fund)

The Truth About Millionaires...

ANSWERS!

1. FALSE. Only 19% of millionaires were given any money or wealth from family.
2. FALSE. Most work more than 45 hours a week.
3. FALSE. 43% of millionaires have a Sear’s card.
4. FALSE. Only 23% of millionaires drive a new car.
5. FALSE. Many keep just one credit card and most pay it off in full each month. They do not like paying interest on debt.

Mail/Walk-In:
UNI Educational Talent Search
800 Sycamore Street
Waterloo, IA  50703
Call: 319-433-1240

MEET THE STAFF:

♦ Tony Stevens, Program Director
  Assigned School: Carver Academy
♦ Ruthie Stigler, Program Secretary
♦ Cliff Coney, Senior Counselor
  Assigned Schools:
  Bunner Middle
  East High 11th-12th
♦ Lori Dale, Recruiter Advisor
  Assigned Schools:
  East High 9th-10th
  West High 9th-10th
♦ Melissa Tate, Recruiter Advisor
  Assigned Schools:
  West High 11th-12th
  Hoover Middle
♦ Monica Bass, Recruiter Advisor
  Assigned Schools:
  Central Middle
  Expo High

Waterloo History Trivia Questions

Answers
1. Dr. Robert Harvey served on the school board from 1969-1972.
2. Ruth B. Anderson was elected to the Board of Supervisions in 1988.
3. Lily Ferguson taught fourth, fifth, and sixth grades from 1952 to 1971.
5. Dr. Henry Johnson
6. Jerry Duea
7. Ray Richardson
8. William Parker was elected as a municipal judge in 19633