



Asset of the Month

March Asset Category: Commitment to Learning (Internal Asset)

March Asset: #23. Homework

In a healthy community a young person reports doing at least one hour of homework every school day.

(47% of youth surveyed believe that they have this asset in their lives.)

What youth say about Commitment to Learning: “Feed my interests.” “Make school more like a community.” “Be excited about your subject.”

Commitment to Learning and Homework

It is important for young people of all ages to value and have a commitment to lifelong learning – both formal and informal. *Homework* is a major part of going to school: it’s your teachers’ way of evaluating how much you understand of what’s going on in class, and it helps reinforce important concepts.

Parenting Tips & How-to-live the Asset of the Month: Helping Young People Learn

Ages Birth – 5

- Give safe, interesting things to babies and toddlers to look at and touch.
- Sing and read to babies, toddlers, and preschoolers daily.
- Expose toddlers and preschoolers to new environments, such as parks and stores.
- Make a game for children to learn names of objects.

Ages 6 – 11

- Set up a place to do homework, and set daily homework guidelines.
- Let children read to you every day as they learn to read. Celebrate their first reading.

Ages 12 – 18

- Find creative ways to link personal interests with school subjects. Discover the historical roots of rock, hip-hop, or jazz music for a history project.
- Place more emphasis on lifelong learning rather than focusing only on graduation.

Other Homework Tips:

Create a homework plan

- It’s much easier to take a minute to ask the teacher during or after class than to struggle to remember later that night. It is also a good idea to ask how long the particular homework assignment should take to complete so you can budget your time.
- Use any extra time you have in school to work on your homework.
- You may want to create a regular study group – as long as this doesn’t become a deterrent to getting your homework done.

Watch where you work

- Your homework requires skill and concentration so create a homework space that is away from noise and distractions. But don’t study on your comfy bed – opt for a desk or table that you can set your computer on and spread things out. Also have supplies on hand – pencils, paper, etc.

Get to work

- Tackle the hardest assignments first – you will have the most energy and focus when you begin.
- If you need to, ask an adult or older sibling for help or call or email a classmate for advice.

Take a Break

- Take some breaks while doing your homework. Sitting for too long without stretching or relaxing will make you less productive. If you are “on a roll” and really concentrating, keep going and take a break when it is a better time.

Get help when you need it

- If you need extra help, the most important thing to know is that there's nothing embarrassing about it. No one is expected to understand everything, and people have very different learning styles. Learning takes time. If you are struggling even after putting in the time, you'll want to ask for help.
- The first place to turn for help is your teacher. There may also be other teachers who teach the same subject.
- Speaking to a Guidance Counselor, another teacher, another student, or possibly a tutor can help. Sometimes it just helps to have someone new explain something in a different way.
- The internet also has some online homework help sites.

Family Discussion Topic/Activity: Help your student learn/study by making flash cards or match the terms to the definition, or match events in history to decades/eras – involve the family if the ages are appropriate in a game show type format and/or “Go to the head of the class” – with incentives or small prizes.

* Visit <http://www.familyresourcesheboygan.org>. Learn more about homework and the other 39 assets. This website also lists other great websites for parents, youth group leaders, teachers, etc. with tools, handouts, etc.

March Events

- Summer Camp registration continues for youth and teens. Go to www.sheboygancountymca.org and www.anokijig.com – for enriching and unforgettable experiences.
- March is **Youth Art Month** – plan an activity celebrating and recognizing art work that youth in your program / school have done.
- March 13th – is Good Samaritan Involvement Day.

***Please forward this information to co-workers, clients, families, and other contacts.**

*Please respond with feedback, ideas for upcoming assets of the month, etc., or if your organization would like to be listed as a resource to: ysports@sheboygancountymca.org or erikfrc@excel.net . Also contact us if your organization would like a 40-asset presentation or training.

***Next Month's Asset of the Month:** Category: Empowerment: #9 Service to Others. If your organization has a potential asset building event or information you would like to share for the April “Asset of the Month” notice please respond by the 20th of March.

***Upcoming months:** May: #15 Positive Peer Influence; June: #37 Personal Power

Sponsors: Kohler Credit Union, Van Horn Automotive Group

The Asset of the Month is a campaign is an effort under the Healthy Community/ Healthy Youth Initiative:

