



## Munsey Park/Shelter Rock Joint SCA Meeting Minutes

Date: November 13, 2013, 9:30am

Subject of Meeting: "Best Practices to Help Your Child Succeed!"

Location: Auditorium, Munsey Park School

Presenters: Mrs. Murphy, Mrs. McCarthy, Mrs. Gandler, Dr. Kendall, and Mrs. Murray

### **Mrs. Liz Tomaselli, SCA President**

Mrs. Tomaselli opened the meeting by leading the room in the Pledge of Allegiance. She also thanked Regina Rule, Board of Education President, for coming and introduced Dr. Kendall.

### **Dr. Jean Kendall, Principal, Munsey Park Elementary School**

Dr. Kendall gave an overview of today's presentation by Munsey Park teachers on Study Skills. She also introduced her and Mrs. Murray's presentation on "Bloom's Taxonomy" and Art Costa's "16 Habits of Mind." She then introduced the presenters: Mrs. Murphy, Mrs. McCarthy, and Mrs. Gandler.

### **Mrs. Murphy, 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher**

Mrs. Murphy's presentation on study skills represented Kindergarten and 1st grade.

Mrs. Murphy discussed the importance of setting up homework routines for children. For example, if possible have children do homework at the same time and same place each day. If they have a busy schedule make sure to schedule time for homework and do not squeeze it in between activities or do it on the bus. Also, have all supplies for homework at hand (i.e., in a container, shoe box) and keep a folder where you put work brought home.

Mrs. Murphy believes at this age parents (or caregiver) should be in close proximity to children while they are doing homework. Read directions together and then walk away. As they get older increase independence. Also, make homework fun (i.e., play go fish with flash cards, practice in car, apps).

Homework should not take more than 20 minutes a night and if it does contact the teacher.

### **Mrs. Mc Carthy, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher**

Mrs. McCarthy's presentation on study skills represented 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

Mrs. Mc Carthy discussed the importance of a routine with homework. Children should read directions to you and then let them tell you what they have to do in their own words. You can separate from child when they are doing homework depending on the child's ability to do it alone.

Mrs. Mc Carthy said you should teach study skills since there are more tests and projects at this age. Don't just have them read notes. They should study using different senses: Read out loud, highlight, have child make flashcards, and/or draw. Children should study math facts. Mrs. Mc Carthy also suggested photocopying book reports or projects before your child hands them in.



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In third grade, have child make a monthly calendar of activities, events, tests and projects. Child learns that the “calendar is the bad guy not you.”

### **Mrs. Gandler, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade teacher**

Mrs. Gandler’s presentation on study skills represented 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

Mrs. Gandler discussed Active Study Skills and Active Learning as an efficient and effective way to learn and internalize material. Passive learning is just receiving information such as reading notes. Active studying is doing something with the information. It is when you take what learning and manipulate information. It is seeing what you really need to know and putting it in your own words. It is important to use all your senses when learning/studying (see, hear, move, touch). For example, when studying read notes, rewrite notes, and say information out loud. Studies suggest we remember 10% of what read, 20% of what hear, 30% of what see, and 70 % percent of what we say. Mrs. Gandler discussed how children have different learning styles such as Visual, Verbal, Reflective, Sensory, Intuitive, Sequential, and Global learners.

Discussed Strategies for Studying/Learning such as: Acronyms (i.e., ROYGBIV, NATO), using different types of organizers when writing (Basic Outline, Venn Diagram, hierarchical topical organizer, bubble topical organizer), flash Cards, mind maps, creating questions about information, rewriting notes, and drawing.

Discussed Active Engagement with materials such as making file folders, which require more than one sense and summaries, which require critical thinking, analysis, synthesis and evaluation.

Perseverance is the key to making learning stick. Want to teach kids to be purposeful, stay on task, be determined and committed to goals. Instead of saying to child “good job” say something about character trait such as “I appreciate your diligence in working so hard” or “I like how you took the initiative and began to work so quickly.” We want to raise confident, responsible and self-sufficient children. Smart people know how to find information so we should teach kids to find the answer on their own and practice critical thinking. Teach children to approach difficulty and learn to struggle with it as data. We want to create internal learners.

Mrs. Gandler also touched upon the Common Core Standards and how this helps create more critical thinkers.

Mrs. Gandler said to teach children “Self Talk.” Some encouraging self-talk ideas might include: “It is okay to make mistakes,” “I can do it,” or “I do not give up, I keep trying.”

Mrs. Gandler’s top 5 study tips: Take Good notes, ask the right questions, study in groups, learn to practice nightly, and manage your time.

### **Dr. Kendal, Principal and Mrs. Murray, Assistant Principal**

Dr. Kendall and Mrs. Murray discussed “Bloom’s Taxonomy” which was developed in the 1950’s to help educators and parents bring learners away from rote learning in order for children to become higher-level learners. See attachment for description of Blooms taxonomy of learning (Analysis, Synthesis, and Evaluation).



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Dr. Kendall and Mrs. Murray next discussed Art Costa's "16 Habits of Mind." These 16 Habits of mind include: Striving for accuracy and precision; Questioning and posing problems; Applying past knowledge to new situations; Thinking and communicating with clarity and precision; Gathering data through all the senses; Creating, imagining and innovating; Responding with wonderment and awe; Taking responsible risks; Finding humor; Thinking interdependently; Learning continuously; Persisting; Managing impulsivity; Listening to others with understanding and empathy; thinking flexibly; Thinking about thinking.

Dr. Kendall and Mrs. Murray discussed each of these higher levels of thinking and had parents discuss how they would use each of the 16 Habits of Mind with their children.