

The Ten Education Commandments for Parents

1. Commit as a family to be involved in school
2. Learn how the schools are ordered (Preschool thru College)
3. Learn what my child needs to graduate successfully from high school
4. Support the learning of Mathematics, Science, and English
5. Understand how grades work (A, B, C, D, F)
6. Encourage my child to take honors and advanced courses
7. Help my child prepare for college early
8. Realize college is affordable
9. Do my part in helping my child study
10. Teach my child to hope and visualize their future



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The Ten Commandments	Key Message Points	Additional Details
<p>1. Commit as a family to be involved in school</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Families must join hands with the schools if we want our children to succeed. ▪ Attend “Back to School Nights”, “Open House”, and other school functions. ▪ Attend all Parent/Teachers conferences. ▪ Always prepare questions to ask the teacher. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create a list of your child’s teachers’ names and post on your refrigerator. The more you familiarize yourself with your child’s teachers, the more at ease you will be communicating with them. ▪ Make it a point to meet your child’s school principal, secretary, and receptionist.
<p>2. Learn how the schools are ordered (Preschool thru College)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ U.S. educational system is different from other countries ▪ Preschool is the beginning and college is preferably the end ▪ Each level is unique: Preschool – Elementary – Intermediate – High School – College – Graduate School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In some school districts, the elementary school ends in the 5th grade; in some school districts middle schools are called intermediate schools and include 6th thru 8th grade; some districts have junior high schools, etc.
<p>3. Learn what my child needs to graduate successfully from high school</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of credits required (Example: SAUSD – 240 credits are required) ▪ Passing the California High School Exit Exam ▪ Successful completion of Algebra ▪ Take courses that prepare your child for college. See #7 below. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All students take the CAHSEE for the first time in the 10th grade (February or March). Students who don’t pass one or both parts of the CAHSEE can retake that part up to 5 times.
<p>4. Support the learning of Mathematics, Science, and English</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Start the Algebra sequence while in intermediate school ▪ Do science projects early ▪ Never go a year without taking mathematics ▪ Seek out tutoring at your school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Taking Algebra in high school has been shown to be a strong predictor of whether a student will enter college. Teachers say that students who take algebra learn to think clearly and solve complex problems.

<p>5. Understand how grades work (A, B, C, D, F)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Each letter grade has a value and it is this value that determines your child's "Grade Point Average" in school (GPA). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A = 4 B = 3 C = 2 D = 1 F = 0 ▪ Learn to calculate your child's GPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To calculate the GPA, add all of the course values and divide by the number of courses. Example: Joe took 5 classes and received the following grades: A, A, B, C, A. His GPA is: $4 + 4 + 3 + 2 + 4 = 17 \div 5 = 3.4$
<p>6. Encourage my child to take honors and advanced courses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A student can earn a higher GPA if he/she takes honors or AP courses. In AP the grade values are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A = 5 B = 4 C = 3 D = 1 F = 0 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Using the same example of Joe above, if two of his A's are earned in AP courses, his earned GPA would be: $5 + 5 + 3 + 2 + 4 = 19 \div 5 = 3.8$
<p>7. Help my child prepare for college early</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Visit colleges and universities – they are always open to the public. ▪ Take all of the tests necessary: PSAT, SAT I and SAT II, ACT, etc. The PSAT is a practice test and it can be taken as early as the 8th grade. ▪ Take courses that apply towards the A thru G requirements (UC and CSU). ▪ Ask to meet with your child's counselor to develop an educational plan that will lead to college. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SAT I = Scholastic Aptitude Test has 2 sections: Math and Language. Each section of the SAT is scored on a scale of 200-800. The SAT is typically taken by high school juniors and seniors. ▪ SAT II = Subject tests required by the UC system. Students take the Subject Tests to demonstrate to colleges their mastery of specific subjects like English, history, mathematics, science, and language. ▪ ACT = The most widely accepted college entrance exam. Highest score: 36 ▪ The minimum A thru G requirements are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A – 2 years, History/Social Science B – 4 years, English C – 3 years, Math D – 3 years, Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, etc. E – 2 years, Foreign Language F – 1 year, Visual Arts G – 1 year, Elective in the above areas

<p>8. Realize college is affordable</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review the FAFSA (“Free Application for the Federal Student Aid”) and seek out help at the school in filling it out. This form is due on March 2 of each year. ▪ Know the difference between the Pell Grant (federal), the Cal Grant (State of California), Scholarships, Loans, Work Study, etc. ▪ Know and abide by all of the deadlines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cost depends on the type of postsecondary institution your child attends: Community College CSU UC Private Universities ▪ Visit your school counselor for details and access internet websites such as: www.calgrants.org www.edfund.com www.finaid.org ▪ The FAFSA is now done on-line.
<p>9. Do my part in helping my child study</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Find out how your student studies best. ▪ Provide space and time for your child to do his homework and study. ▪ Homework is more important than chores. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Don’t be alarmed if your child likes to listen to music or be in a noisy environment when doing his/her homework. Some students can do well in this environment although most prefer a quiet space. ▪ Allow your child to study in school or go to the library if this is more suitable. ▪ It is also proper for students to meet with classmates to study, as long as they show they do better together.
<p>10. Teach my child to hope and visualize their future</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Allow times when you ask your child about what he wants in his future. ▪ Discuss barriers (real or perceived) openly with your child and assure him all obstacles can be overcome if he does well in school and is committed. (Barriers can include limited knowledge of the language, time in this country, early trouble in school or in the community, social situations such as teen pregnancy, etc.). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use times when students watch TV to discuss careers and why they would like some careers above others. ▪ Seek out assistance at school, church, or community agencies if you or your child are experiencing obstacles that can seem overwhelming barriers to achieving success.