



IVYMOUNT
SCHOOL & PROGRAMS
Exceptional Programs for Exceptional Students

June 19th, 2017

Dear Middle School Parents:

We hope the break is wrapping up well and your child has enjoyed the time off.

To start the school year off strong we would like to start July with the student binder system up and rolling. We will be continuing with our home-school communication homework binder as the team feels it went really well last year to increase teaching your child important executive functioning skills and self-management.



To that end we are asking that you send in a 2" zip binder by July 10th (please feel free to reuse last years if still in good condition). We will be putting in pocket dividers and other organizational items. Students will continue to be systematically taught how to use the binder, and will have daily and weekly check-ins to ensure they are using it correctly. You will also get more information from your child's homeroom teacher about how to support your child using the binder.

While our students have tremendous organizational and motivational challenges, it is very important that homework remain their job. If you are working harder than your child, STOP. Let us know so we can help you out of the struggle. Try to remember that the purpose of homework is to establish good habits (constant battles only practice bad habits), reinforce what has already been learned (we review all homework in class before sending it home), and develop independence and persistence (and therefore self-esteem).

Please reach out this summer if needed as your child settles back into the school year. Remember that we are always happy to hear from you and prefer that you let us know when things are small rather than waiting for them to build up. To paraphrase Peter Gehardt, a wonderful autism educator who asked by a *school* for help with a student:

"I'm so glad you called about this difficult behavior that is happening 15 times a week. Just out of curiosity, what was it about 15 that was your threshold? I would have been happy to help at 5!"

Thank you,

Jennie, Melissa, Neziha, Lynn, Kristin, and Kevan