Dear Parents,

As I’m writing this I’m looking at my calendar, which says that students will receive progress reports soon. Even when kids make good grades in school, you might still find yourself asking, ‘Is my child learning what he/she needs to at school? What can I do to help them be a better student?’ Whether or not your child gets great grades or struggles academically we all feel the strain of helping them succeed academically. So how do we do that well as parents?

Check out this video for parenting coaching on how to help your child do well in school.

<https://vimeo.com/parentministry/review/84041184/546be0228e>

Every child learns differently and at different paces. We often find ourselves caught in the comparison game. Make sure you know your child’s strengths and that you’ve communicated those to your child. God created us all with strengths and weaknesses. Discussing weakness to your child can be tough; however, helping your child realize that everyone has weaknesses will help them NOT feel like a failure. Take some time to think about your child’s strengths and weaknesses. Write them down. Have that hard conversation.

Every child will struggle with an area of life. Even if your child is an academic superstar, they may struggle socially. Even Paul, a hero of our faith, Paul, said about himself in 2 Corinthians 12:7-10: “*Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me - to keep me from exalting myself! Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong*.”

It’s OK that we have weaknesses. In fact, Paul helps us see that the power of God is displayed *through* our weaknesses. This helps us see that weaknesses *don’t* make us failures. Paul even goes so far as to say that God gave him this thorn in the flesh.

Here’s the harsh reality, even if our child struggles academically, he/she still has to get an education. So how do we move forward and help them succeed to the best of his/her ability?

1. Stop the comparison game and figure out with an expert (teacher/pediatrician) if your child is truly behind.
2. Determine the subject/area in which your child struggles most and give that area attention. Don’t forget that many problems originate from a child’s inability to organize their things. Help them figure out a system of organization that works best for them.
3. Don’t be afraid to ask for help. Ask your child’s teacher/pediatrician if tutoring will help. They’ll have a perspective that will help you know if your child is just a bit behind or has some sort of delay.
4. If it comes to it, don’t be afraid to have your child assessed for special education. Many children just need the opportunity to learn differently and special education offers this. God has made your child fearfully and wonderfully, and ALL God’s works are wonderful! Know strengths, work on weaknesses. Many times our strengths teach us how to adapt our weaknesses.

Building Young Disciples,

Pastor Sarah