

Parents can do their own homework to help kids study

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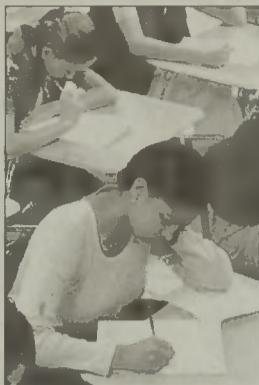
expect it, especially with many schools encouraging parents and faculty to stay in touch by e-mail. And, says Schumm, most teachers certainly welcome any education enrichment activities that happen after school and on weekends.

It might not be "homework" but, for example, when a family goes to a museum that's featuring a particular artist or historical period that students are learning about, they are adding to their bank of knowledge. Anything that bridges home and school

learning is a plus, Schumm says.

In the newest edition of "How to Help Your Child With Homework," Schumm offers tips on setting up an effective homework system in your house:

- Maintain two-way communication. Parents shouldn't just lecture, they need to listen and respond to children, too.
- Set goals with - not for - your child, and tackle them one at a time. Start with a goal that your child is almost guaranteed to achieve so the others will be more appealing.



PHOTO/THE STOCK MARKET

Good study habits begin early.

- Expect progress. If your expectations for your child are low, your child's achievements are likely to match them. Keep expectations high but not unreasonable.

- Reward achievement. Don't give a treat for every accomplishment but if your child works especially hard on a challenging assignment and then completes it successfully, that's worth celebrating. Also, praise generously and honestly. "Praise will lose its effectiveness if used indiscriminately," Schumm writes.

Also praise specific tasks. Saying, "You spelled eight out

of 10 words right. Much better!" is more effective than "Good for you!"

- Try not to show disappointment if your child doesn't do as well as you'd like. The important thing is that you show appreciation for effort not just performance. A child whose performance is poor doesn't need reminding.

- Be prepared to teach. Sometimes parents need to "fill in the blanks." Skimming the textbook and reading lesson materials will help.

- Provide variety. If a child is fidgety after poring over a math book for an hour, switch

to spelling and finish up the math later. It's also OK to take a short walk or a snack break.

What will happen if I don't advertise?

Nothing

Old black inclave faces change

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For one, builders are charging more. Over the past year, Ajayi says the cost of home construction has increased from \$70 per square foot to \$98; homes projected to cost \$28,000 in 1999 run \$50,000 in 2005.

The majority of Bayview residents receive federal subsidies, letting them live in the new homes while spending no more than one-quarter of their incomes - as little as \$3,000 in some cases.

The federal government covers the difference between what residents can afford and the actual mortgage. But those funds are limited, Ajayi explains, and as housing costs rise, Bayviewers will either have to cough up more money or settle for homes barely bigger than the shacks they left as Cole's group builds smaller to cover the cost increases.

The impact of sweeping change is felt in little things too.

Ajayi cites the local supermarket, where modest cuts of meat have all but disappeared in freezers now packed with T-bone steaks. This past winter, Coles says eight families had their lights shut off as they tried to juggle newly acquired utility bills.

Bayview's dilemma reflects changes throughout Northampton County, says Bill Parr, owner of Parr Properties. He estimates the cost of land has tripled over the past five years as outsiders lay claim to waterfront property.

Northampton County is bordered by the Chesapeake Bay on one side and the Atlantic Ocean on the other, making it a prime location for baby boomers and well-heeled executives.

"In the early '90s, you could have bought an acre on the water in Northampton County for about \$65,000," Parr says. "That same acre of land today ... would probably cost you approaching \$300,000."

Barely 10 minutes from Bayview, Cape Charles stands as a paragon of renewal and a glimpse of the future. Once a booming railroad center, the town had nearly evaporated before developer Richard Foster arrived in 1996.

Foster pictured a seaside Shangri-La. Nearly one decade later, his vision has blossomed into sprawling Bay Creek, a roughly 2,000-acre resort community sprinkled with \$300,000 condominiums and million-dollar McMansions.

A cluster of high-end shops accommodates moneyed residents - cabanas and trendy restaurants that folks like Young, a 51-year-old, eighth-grade dropout, are too intimidated to enter let alone work in.

Foster also offers hospitality training at Bay Creek Academy. Courses run about \$800; Young earns \$5 an hour sorting beans.

"In order for people in Bayview and other black areas to stay, there must be a massive reinvestment in training people," Ajayi says, explaining that otherwise, "you are asking them to

leave." That migration has already begun, says Felton Sessoms. As a county board of supervisors member, he fought to stave off gentrification.

Now as a pastor in Cape Charles, he watches black families leave the area, their agricultural jobs replaced and landlords selling their homes while the market is hot.

"In two years, I've seen five families relocate," he says, estimating as many as 80 percent of black families in Cape Charles alone have left within the last decade.

County officials are focused on retooling the work force. A training center highlighting construction, service and hospitality education will open at the community college next year, says county board chairman Richard Tankard.

For communities like Bayview, where up to half of residents are illiterate, Tankard points out reading classes offered through the county extension office.

But Coles says luring grown folks to a reading course or community college classroom is easier said than done, especially when education is often undervalued.

"I know a lot of (people) down here have gotten a GED," Young says, "and still bean grating with me."

That complacency hints at what's really hurting the people of Bayview - their mindset, says black Cape Charles restaurant owner Robbin Smith.

"People here have been poor and oppressed for so long that they can't see up," he says. "If we put forth an effort, change will come about."



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