

Suggestions for Effective Use of the Planner

Using the planner is a daily job for both students and parents. At Finn Hill, students are expected to use the planner while teachers help facilitate the learning and encourage its use. Here are some suggestions on how you can best support your child's use of the planner.

1. Create a common place for the planner to be displayed to the current week. (Kitchen counter, dining room table, coffee table, etc.) In families where students spend time in separate parents' homes, this should be the same place.
2. Everyday, when the student comes home from school, s/he is expected to have the planner open to the current week.
3. Parent checks planner for completeness. If not complete, this is the student's first homework task.
4. All classes should have some kind of entry. "None" and "No hw" should not be acceptable as all classes had some work during the class period that they are responsible for, even if the work is complete. Work that has not been completed in class does often become homework.
5. If the student is stuck and cannot find out what the assignment is, allow them a *short* phone call to a friend to help.
6. Students then should check or show parents assignments that are complete.
7. Finally, some students find it helpful to check off completed work with a / . When this work is turned in to the teacher, they mark the planner with a \, thus creating an X.

Using the planner regularly increases success at school and home and is an important skill to support future success.

Implementing these steps takes a consistent effort, however will encourage academic independence and personal responsibility of the student.