

Parental Role at WPA

Dedicated Teacher:

This role is usually for parents with children in Kinder through 2nd grade. At this stage, the parent will need to dedicate significant time to the teaching of the child at the home/satellite campus. Emphasis at this level is primarily placed on teaching through games and other attractive and entertaining techniques. The classroom teacher will introduce new concepts and the parent will ensure that the student is learning the concepts through detailed instruction given via RenWeb assignments. The parent can opt to spend additional time on a given concept to ensure the student is grasping the new concept and/or learning the concept by knowing when the child has mastering the concept while still maintaining the daily assigned work in order to keep the student moving along with the class. The teacher(s) are always available to assist with a quick phone call or email.

Involved Teacher:

The role of the involved teachers is primarily in the 3rd – 6th grades. At this level, the student may not need a constant help as in the dedicated level, but high involvement will be needed for success. High emphasis is placed on the subjects of Math and English and these encompass more study time than any other subject in the elementary grades. As a result, responsibilities are often divided between the classroom teacher and the parent-teacher at home. It is the responsibility of the parent to ensure that mastery of the subject has been achieved. The WPA teacher(s) is always available for questions if assistance is needed.

Individual or Private Tutor:

Courses involving this role are made successful because each student has an individual tutor, the parent, at home, willing and ready to assist. In the 5th – 8th grades, students will receive instructions from the classroom teacher on a regular basis outlining homework assignments, follow-up study over covered material, and any preparation or review needed for their next class. Parents are there to step in to help the student one on one with any issues as they continue to foster independence. At this level, **students** are encouraged to contact the teacher for instruction in order to begin their road to independence and learn to communicate with their teachers.

Guide for Dependent Study:

This role will usually relate to parents with children in the 7th – 10th grades. Many courses at this level will begin to cover subject matter that is unfamiliar to many parents. At the same time, the student is at a dependent age where disciplined study habits must be developed, not by parental force, but through positive encouragement and through the student's growing awareness of personal consequences. In order for these classes to be successful, the teacher is dependent upon the parents to make certain that their son or daughter keeps up with the course material assigned and to communicate to the teacher if difficulties should arise. In some cases, private tutoring might even be necessary. Students are highly encouraged to have a good rapport with their teacher in order to facilitate good communication and work habits when help is needed. A monitored email address is recommended for the student so the teacher can communicate directly with the student regarding assignments, projects, etc.

Guide to Independent Study:

Academic courses at the 9th – 12th grades will usually involve this role by the parents. Here, the parents have the opportunity to monitor the independent school work performed by their children while it is still possible for them to provide additional guidance if needed. Courses offered by WPA at this level will mimic that of a Jr. College program where independent study skills and disciplined planning for completing homework assignments are necessary. By this level, parents should get a clear picture of what their student will look like at the college level. If the student is not performing as the parent sees they should be, simply step back a level and continue working toward the level of independence that God has designed them for.

Course Monitor:

Some courses will involve equipment or expertise which necessitate that teaching be done in the classroom and leaves little for the parents to teach at home. This role, therefore, will require the least amount of time by the parent but its importance cannot be understated. The primary responsibility of the parents is to track the progress of their son or daughter and to monitor how well they are doing. Are they becoming discouraged? Are they enjoying the class? What are the activities being done each day in class? What are they learning? In short, parents need to show an interest and express this to their children. If problems should develop, then the teacher needs to know immediately.

Project Assistant:

Parent involvement is needed, but not on a regular basis. This role is in many respects similar to that of the "course monitor," but at one or more times during the semester, help at home or at school might be needed in support of a particular project. Drama courses, for example, might involve additional help for student costuming, making puppets, working on sets, etc.

Parent Coach:

The role of the parent coach is to provide individual practice and instruction to their son or daughter at home. The head coach will organize the sport, direct team practices, and communicate to the parent-coaches information and directions concerning home practice on individual skills. This role is used primarily with student athletes in grades 1-8 and possibly 9-10.

The Active Supporter:

This role by the parent usually involves high school athletes. In a competitive high school athletic program, conditioning training and work on individual skills goes beyond the expertise of most parents. As a result, parents are instead required to actively support their children through regular attendance at games and even at practices. Parents are also encouraged to show their support by participating in the athletic booster club, which plays a vital role in the reality of a high school athletic program. At a time when older students are beginning to increase their time away from home as they move gradually toward independence, high school athletics offers parents a regular avenue through which to remain an active part of their child's life and interests.

Parental Roles

Dedicated Teacher				Individual Tutor				Guide to Independent Study				
K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Involved Teacher						Guide for Dependent Study						

*The parent's role in a UMS goes far beyond simply asking children each evening,
"Is your homework completed?"*