

Why Grades are Important

Find out why grades are an indicator of your child's future

As parents we all want our kids to get good grades in school, right? But why?

I am Sam Larioza, a father of two awesome kids and owner of Ohana Karate. Over the last 12 years we have help hundreds of parents in our community raise their children. Many have underestimated the importance of their kid's grades in school.

Here is the secret: **How a child performs in school sets in place the habits, attitudes and character traits they will carry into young adulthood and have for the rest of their lives!**

Parents find this story helpful in understanding this concept: ***“There are three types of people in this world”***

Type One: *“Always does a little bit more than any one expects!”* You can tell easily tell if a child is in this group. They consistently get all A's and B's in school. They are the ones on the team that always hustle. They are the ones that read one extra chapter or practice the piano 5 extra minutes!

Type Two: *“Always does just enough to get by!”* The indicators for this group are students that get A's and B's in some classes (the ones they like) and D's and F's in others. They are the kids on the sports field that always do just enough and not any more. They are the kids that will see how poorly or slowly they can do a chore at home and get away with it.

Type Three: *“Are always trying to do less than they have to!”* They typically do this by taking shortcuts or even cheating. They struggle in almost every aspect of school. On the sports field they stop or quit when they think no one is looking. They blame everybody and everything for why they can't do something.

So, which group is you child in? So you are probably thinking – “This is all fine and good but what can you do?”

Here is the key: ***We are all products of our life experiences!*** And right now your child's biggest life experience is coming from school!. They spend seven hours a day five days a week there! Every single decision and act they do at school develops their attitudes and most of all their HABITS!

I am running out of space but here are three tips our parents use:

1. **“Open the envelope”** – You need to open the letter containing their report and know their grade in every single class. Better yet, go online and know their grades all the time and let them know that you do!
2. **“Never, ever miss a parent-teacher conference”** – Parents will skip the conference because they know their kids are doing “okay” or they have more important things to do. Never, ever miss one. Ever!

3. **“Make grades important to you”** – Grade must be important to you. Both #1 and #2 do this but you need to take one step further. Don’t nag your child but talk about school and grades all the time.

Grades are important to us! We talk about school and grades all the time. We require every student to turn their report cards into us.

If you need any more tips or help with your child’s performance in school give me a call or email. You do not need to be a student at our karate school. We just want to help every child in our community. It makes all of us better!

Yours for rock solid (and Type One) kids,

Sensei