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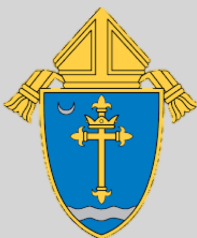
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Published by: **Saint Louis
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SCHOOL TOOLS

APRIL 2021

NEARING THE END OF THE YEAR

Can you believe it is already April? This year, students, teachers and parents have accomplished **so** many things: juggling a blended learning format, new household schedules, finding new ways to socialize, and keeping up with meeting academic and developmental milestones.

Despite these efforts, around this time each year you may see students' motivation beginning to wane. The weather is warmer, the sun is shining, and let's face it-- staying inside for 8 hours a day to do schoolwork is not always first on students' list of how they'd like to spend their day. This is the time of year we may see slipping grades (even from "A" grade students), lack of focus and that "summer fever" creeping in. This may be met with understandable frustration by parents or teachers who are striving for their children to finish out the year strong.

Remind yourselves that this is normal and not a reflection of your efforts this year. However, there are some tips to helping your student make the most of these last few months (see sidebar).

Having the "Report Card Talk"

Oxford Learning shares these tips when talking with your student about a report card:

- **Plan the discussion ahead of time.**
- **Sit down to review together.**
- **Remove distractions.**
- **Start with something positive and review learning strengths.**
- **Recognize the struggle.**
- **Review any complaints to establish future goals.**
- **End with optimism and ability for improvement.**

MAINTAINING MOTIVATION

Encouraging students to power through to the end of the year can be difficult. Here are some tips to help your students engage and finish out strong:

- **Encourage outdoor learning.** Utilize this nice weather to embrace outdoor reading, finishing homework, or studying for those final exams. A nice backdrop and some vitamin D may help!
- **Provide incentives.** If you know your child is checked out, brainstorm or negotiate some incentives for hard work in these last remaining weeks. Let your child be part of this brainstorming (while still maintaining control).
- **Replace supplies.** Your child's new school notebooks, pencils or folders have probably seen some wear and tear by now. Sprucing up their school supplies may provide a pick-me-up to engage in work.
- **Hold a countdown.** Mark off tasks and days until summer break.
- **Remind them of their goals.** Celebrate assignments they've accomplished and review attainable goals still yet to be met.
- **Keep up with a planner.** Encourage your student to keep up with their planner. Older students who fill this out on their own may need reminders in this area.
- **Celebrate!** Plan for a fun last few weeks of school. The summer is near!