

TOP 10

tips for working with your homeschooler while they take online courses.



Have you ever wondered how to get the most from taking online classes?

Parents like online schooling because it can help with the heavy load of teaching and grading.

Online classes offer some amazing benefits including:

- Subject Matter Expertise
- Greater Accountability
- Grading, Homework, and Feedback
- Teacher Availability and Office Hours

But does that guarantee your student will learn and grow? **Not necessarily.**

While it is true online classes have a huge benefit in expanding your student's world and can deepen their learning experience, it would be a mistake to “**let go of the wheel**” and expect that your homeschool teaching tasks are complete.

So, in light of our years of teaching online classes for thousands of hours, we've learned a few things that can help parents prep for success.

Enjoy our Top 12 List, and please don't hesitate to give us feedback at www.myfunscience.com/contact.

1

Set a weekly time, sit down, and review the homework for the class once it is assigned.

Have your student write down their assignments every week. Then we recommend that you let your student explain what *they* believe the homework is, and then encourage them to set the study schedule for the week. This helps your student take ownership of the process of actively listening and conveying what they have understood about the work ahead.

2

Attend the parent orientation or the first class.

Even if it is just the first class, a teacher often sets the expectations for the year and tries to help your student understand the ins-and-outs of how the class works. This includes what class discussions may be like and what to expect from tests, projects and homework.

3

Help your student be a student of the teacher, not just the class.

One of the great things about having someone else teach your students is a diversity of perspective, tone, accountability and style. Helping your student understand it is important to connect with their teacher and understand their style will help them succeed. Not to mention, school isn't always just about the subject, but the situation, relationships and learning to succeed in a new environment.



4

Work backwards for scheduling.

When tests or big homework projects are assigned, students often delay because it seems big or the due date is just so far away. Have your student tell you when they have a big project assigned, and help them plot a course to success. Include dates, checkpoints, and work items in order to help them stay on track. No student (and parent for that matter) likes to be doing a book report until midnight the evening before it's due!

5

If there is a problem, encourage your student to work with their teacher.

Help your student create an approach plan if they get behind, frustrated, or confused for any reason. Encourage them to communicate with their teacher. The more effort they put towards working through a challenge, the more likely a teacher will go out of their way to ensure your student is successful and understanding.

6

If there is a continued concern, don't be afraid to reach out to the teacher.

Online teachers are happy to see parents care for their student's progress and are often willing to help if needed. Ask questions, and provide the teacher a little time to respond – especially if they are busy grading 60 lab papers! If there is a unique situation, reach out early so you and the teacher can proactively manage it together.



7

Create a distraction free environment.

Too many distractions can create a tough space to learn. Ensure your student's situation allows them to focus, and remove distractions of electronics, YouTube, video games, baby siblings, and wait, what were we saying? Exactly;)

8

Be early to class.

Disruptions take time, and time from your teacher is what you are paying for! 90 minutes a week is just enough time to cram in all the knowledge needed. So, have your student show up, listen, and take notes.

9

Know when to audit.

Sometimes life as a homeschooling household can get crazy. There may be special circumstances, or perhaps the material is simply harder than you or your student expected. It's okay to talk to the teacher and request to audit the course.

As a homeschool parent, you have autonomy to provide the final grade, but that doesn't mean your student can't enjoy the learning and guidance in the class still.

10

Watch the recordings.

If you miss a class, no problem! It shouldn't happen too often unless you have an understanding with the teacher for a special case, but it's bound to happen from time to time. When it does happen, make sure your student takes the time to watch the recording, and keep their learning on track.



And a just for fun we have a bonus suggestion!



Take a study skills class.

Great study skills can help across the board in school, college, and life. We believe the most powerful skills a student can benefit from include critical thinking, self awareness, and practice. Studying may not come easy to us all, so having an awareness of your students learning style can be a critical factor in supporting their learning process. Additionally, developing great habits makes school so much easier - even if the subject matter is hard!

At MyFunScience, we encourage every family to participate in the [STEM Study Skills class](#) to prepare them to get the most out of their studies. Many students have walked away feeling more confident and ready to tackle school with a lifelong set of solid habits!

