

California State PTA. Back to School Tips. 2014. <<http://www.capta.org/sections/parents/pi-back-to-school-tips.cfm>>.



The California Parent Teacher Association's Back to School tips webpage includes tips for the first day of school, working with your child's teachers, and helping your student with homework. The site has a PDF download of 100 ways to help your student and school succeed that's available in English and Spanish. Additional resources link to pages relating to new school standards, bullying, and readying your child for college. PTA has resources to help parents get engaged.

Coursera, Inc. Coursera. 2104. <<https://www.coursera.org>>.



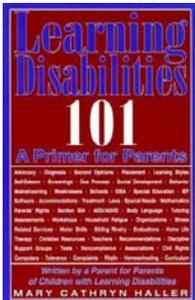
Coursera is one of the world's largest sites for MOOCs (Massive Open Online Course). They have over 725 courses taught by professors at some of the world's largest and best known universities. While the courses are geared towards the post-high school students these courses are great ways to gain a brief overview of a field of study, learn how to code, or catch up in mathematics. There's even a course for non-native English speakers and international students on the US college admissions process. The courses are free with some paid options that may be used as future college credit or to waive prerequisites depending on your school.

Fox, Jenifer. Your child's strengths: discover them, develop them, use them. New York: Penguin Group, 2008.



Rather than trying to “fix” a student’s weaknesses, Fox thinks parents and teachers should play to the student’s strengths. This book has tools to identify a learner’s three greatest strengths and how to use them to make learning fun. It also discusses how to use everyday moments as teaching tools. Fox also includes checklists and other forms to help your student learn based on their strengths and what things affect their learning.

Haller, Mary Cathryn. Learning disabilities 101: a primer for parents. Highland City: Rainbow Books, Inc., 1999.



Haller is a parent of a child with a learning disability (LD) so understands the parents perspective, fears, and needs. Her book has chapters on the identification, diagnosis, and acceptance of LDs in a student, how to work with schools to help a student with an LD, and what parents can do to help their child through legal avenues and in the home. This book lists tips and tricks for helping your child with school work, disciplining child with an LD, and helping to boost their self-esteem and social development. This book is geared towards ALL parents with an LD student and has a specific chapter dealing with ADD/ADHD.

Jenkins, Steven and Erika Stadler. 97 things to do before you finish high school. San Francisco: Zest Books, 2011.



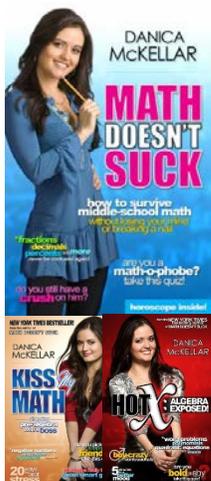
Have you learned a foreign language (43), visited your state capital (45), or taken a road trip (23)? If not you have four years to get through the *97 things you should do before you graduate high school*. This book gives you excellent ideas of things to do separated into nine categories including “because you should” and “you’re only young once”. Ideas include getting a passport (41), making a video/podcast (51/49), trying a new hairstyle (88), and joining a club (13). Some of the things listed in the book will help you make new friends, try something different, look good on your future college or job application, and just be plain fun. You can start simple with #95 and watch the sunrise...

Johnson, Cynthia and Drew Johnson. *Caffeine will NOT help you pass that test: facts, strategies, and practical advice to help you succeed in high school*. New York: Simon & Shuster, 2005.



Caffeine may help to keep you awake an extra hour or two but it won't help you pass that history exam or that Calculus class. This book gives you excellent tips for studying, paper writing, and note taking. Concentration, study group, and memorization tactics will help to keep you at the top of your game from the first day of your freshman year through your graduation as a senior and beyond. Don't forget to check out the chapter on test studying and taking skills!

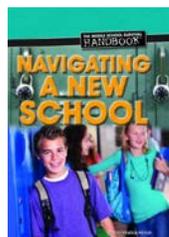
McKellar, Danica. *Math doesn't suck: how to survive middle school math without losing your mind or breaking a nail*. New York: Penguin Group, 2007.



Are you a math-o-phobe? Take the quiz in this book to find out. This book has easy to follow, step-by-step instruction and examples on factors, multiples, fractions, decimals, percents, algebra, and word problems that are often seen in middle school level mathematics. It includes takeaway tips and notes in each chapter to supplement the detailed explanation of the problems worked out in the book. It also has testimonials from women who use math in their everyday jobs, some of whom had difficulty with or feared math while in school. *Math Doesn't Suck* is geared toward girls in grades 6 - 8.

Other great math resources for girls by Danica McKellar are *Kiss My Math: showing pre-algebra who's boss* and *Hot X: algebra exposed*. All three titles are available at the Placer County Library (TEEN 512 MCK).

Meyer, Terry Teague. *Navigating a new school*. New York: Rosen Publishing Group, Inc., 2013.



Moving up from elementary to middle school can be a big change. There's new people, more homework, and often more responsibility. This book gives tips on how to organize a locker, bus stop etiquette, and how to survive lunch. It also touches on extracurricular activities and where to get help with class work or bullies.

Nemours Foundation. *School and Family Life*. 2014a. <<http://kidshealth.org/parent/positive>>.



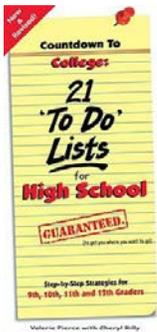
Kid's Health from Nemours, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving children's health, has website links for parents as they relate to your child's general health, development, nutrition, and school and family life. Resources include those that will help you discuss tough topics with children including alcohol, divorce, sexual orientation, moving, growing up, and the death of a pet. The learning and education link discusses back to school resources and tips, helping your child and teen with homework, as well as various things that may hinder your child's learning and how to help. Many articles are written in English and Spanish and have a read out loud option.

Nemours Foundation. TeensHealth from Nemours. 2014b. <<http://kidshealth.org/teen/>>.



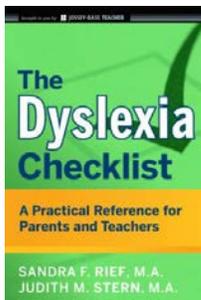
Kid's Health from Nemours, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving children's health, has links for teens with information on the body, mind, sexual health, food & fitness, school, and other resources including homework help. Articles answer questions that teens may feel uncomfortable asking parents relating to puberty, their changing body, violence, and sexual orientation. It also has recipes for healthy food and articles on topics which teens may just find of interest including becoming a vegetarian, various physical and mental health disorders, how to get a job, applying for college, and how to pop a pimple. Many articles are written in English and Spanish and have a read out loud option.

Pierce, Valerie and Cheryl Rilly. 21 'To Do' lists for high school: step by step strategies for 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th graders. Lansing: Front Porch Press, 2009.



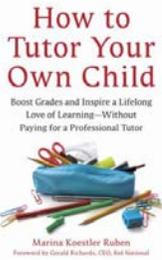
This book has TONS of checklists on what to do in the 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grade to get you where you want to go in the future. *Countdown to college* give tips on participating in extracurricular activities (not necessarily at school), study abroad, and the various tests that high school students take. It also includes tips for college admissions, scholarships, and ways to make summers count. This book is good for someone planning on college who has no idea where to begin.

Rief, Sandra F. and Judith M. Stern. The dyslexia checklist: a practical reference for parents and teachers. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2010.



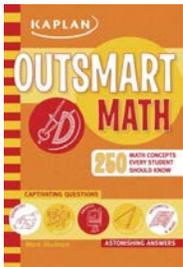
Dyslexia is the most common learning disability (LD) in schools. Rief and Stern discuss the causes and diagnosis of dyslexia and ways to help students with this particular LD. They have lists of references, strategies to help students with reading, writing, and language. The "checklists" in the book for parents, teachers, and specialized lists for high school and university aged students give extensive explanations for each item. They also list many additional resources for more help in several sections.

Ruben, Marina Koestler. How to tutor your own child: boost grades and inspire a lifelong love of learning - without paying for a professional tutor. New York: Ten Speed Press, 2011.



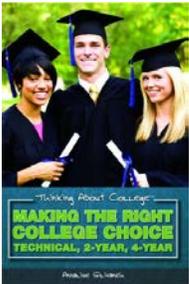
This book explain why tutoring your student is important and the benefits that both tutor and tutee gain. It introduces the basics of tutoring and how to think like a professional tutor. Ruben points out ways to talk to your student, how to praise them, and how to use technology to add to their education. It's important to engage your student and make learning fun; this book gives you examples and tools to make it so.

Shulman, Mark. Outsmart math: for ages 10 & up. New York: Kaplan Publishing, 2008.



This book lays out in an easy to read format 250 math concepts that every student should know. Questions are listed on one side of the page with the answers to the questions a quick page turn away. Math concepts that are discussed are basic arithmetic, geometry, graphs, pre-algebra, and more. This book is a great and quick refresher for students as they go back to school and for parents that need a refresher prior to their students asking questions about math homework.

Silivanch, Annalise. Making the right college choice: technical, 2-year, 4-year. New York: Rosen Publishing Group, 2010.



It's never too early or late to start thinking about college. But what type school is right for you? Is a gap year (or two) working as a Peace Corp volunteer overseas in your future? Maybe Harvard is your goal but you're not sure how to pay for it? This small (~70 pp.) book gives you information on deciding what to do after high school, how to get there, and tips on making your high school years count. It includes a "What is your college style?" quiz and tips to help you organize your application and write your admissions essay.

United States of America Government. Back to School. 2014. <<http://www.usa.gov/Topics/Back-to-School.shtml>>.

Government website with topics that include school immunization and health requirements, financial assistance for families, homework help, school supplies, and healthy eating/physical fitness. It also includes links to health and safety resources for parents of children and adolescents relating to bullying, mental health, and nutrition programs.

YouTube. YouTube EDU. 2014. <<https://www.youtube.com/edu>>.

YouTube EDU is a great resource to help make learning fun. With channels dedicated to Primary & Secondary Education, University, and Lifelong Learning there's something for everyone. Learn a new language, brush up on your grammar, or learn all about the French Revolution in less than 10 minutes with cartoons and sound effects. Writing a paper on recent events of science in the news and want an interesting citation or doing a class presentation and want to include an interesting clip?.... YouTube EDU is a great resource.

