

Challenge for Every Child

**Parent Meeting
Project GEMS**

If during the first five or six years of school, a child earns good grades and high praise without having to make much effort, what are all the things he doesn't learn that most children learn by third grade?

Why not take the easy road?

**There's plenty of time to work hard later,
right? WRONG!**

Challenging, enriching courses in middle and high school make a prepared, committed, interested student in college.

**Sixty percent of students going to college with
KEES scholarships had the grades to keep the
scholarship for year two.**

KHEAA and The Student Loan People, 2007-2008 data

Warren County High Schools 2007-2008

High School	Awards Used	Retained Awards	Percent Retained
Greenwood	183	114	62.3
Warren Central	128	55	43.0
Warren East	87	47	54.0

Statistics show...

- **College students who have not taken an Advanced Placement (AP) class have 33% chance of completing a Bachelor' s Degree**
- **College students who have completed one AP course have a 59% chance of completing a Bachelor' s Degree**
- **College students who have completed two or more AP courses increase to 76% their chances of attaining a Bachelor' s Degree**

Answers in the Toolbox: Academic Intensity, Attendance Patterns, and Bachelor' s Degree Attainment <http://www.ed.gov/pubs/Toolbox>

Of all pre-college curricula, the highest level of mathematics one studies in secondary school has the strongest continuing influence on bachelor's degree completion. Finishing a course beyond the level of Algebra 2 (for example, trigonometry or pre-calculus) more than doubles the odds that a student who enters postsecondary education will complete a bachelor's degree. This is much more important than SES!

Answers in the Tool Box: Academic Intensity, Attendance Patterns, and Bachelor's Degree Attainment www.ed.gov/pubs/Toolbox

**Highest Math
Studied in High School**

**Percentage of High School
Graduates Earning Bachelors**

Calculus

79.8

Pre-Calc

74.3

Trig

62.2

Algebra 2

39.5

Geometry

23.1

Algebra I

7.8

Pre-algebra

2.3

ACT data show that fewer than two in ten eighth graders are on target to be ready for college-level work by the time they graduate from high school.

The Forgotten Middle, 2009

Only one in five ACT-tested 2008 high school graduates are prepared for entry-level college courses in English Composition, College Algebra, Social Science, and Biology.

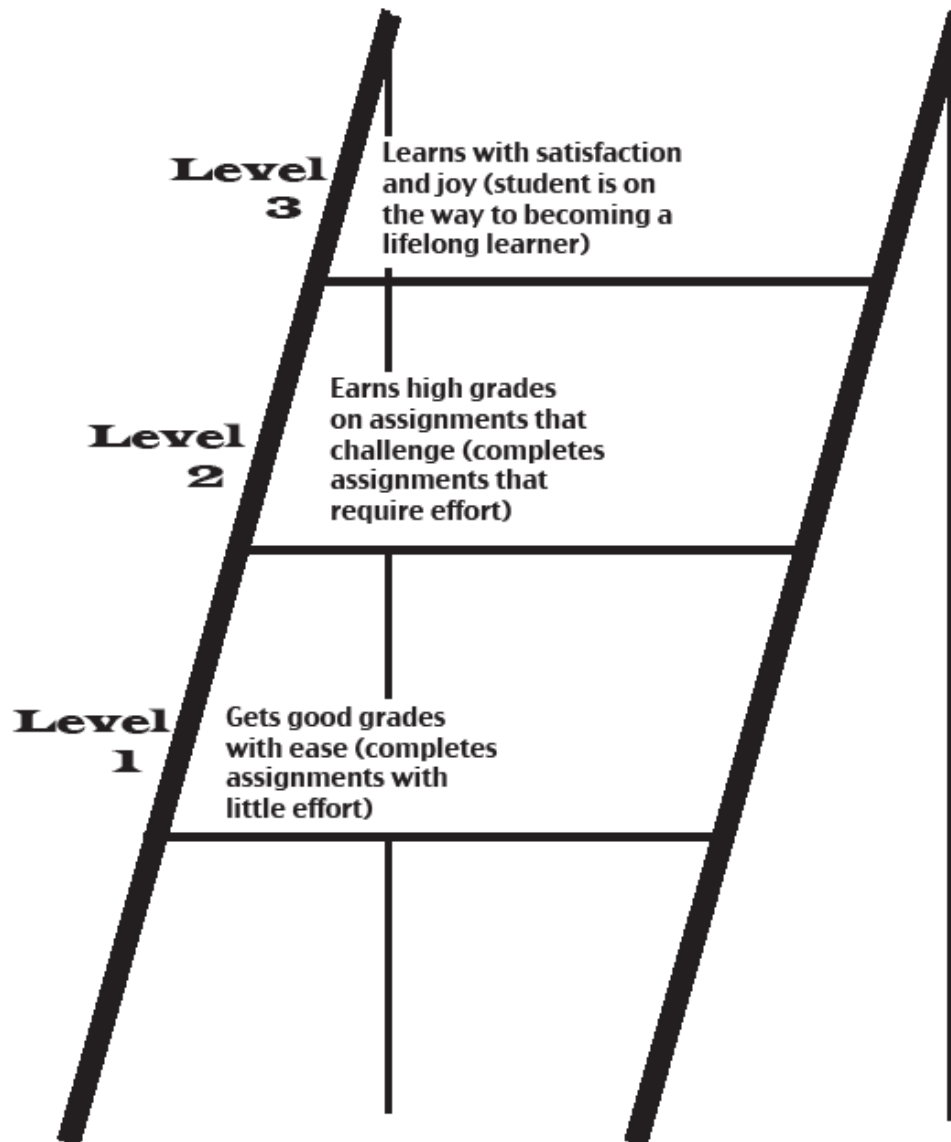
**The surest way to make it difficult for children
is to make it easy for them.**

Eleanor Roosevelt

What is academic success?

The background is a solid blue color with a complex, abstract pattern of overlapping, semi-transparent shapes. These shapes include large, rounded arches and smaller, more intricate geometric forms that resemble stylized leaves or petals. The overall effect is a textured, layered appearance with varying shades of blue.

LEVELS OF ACADEMIC SUCCESS



Level 1

**Gets good grades with ease
(completes assignments with
little effort)**

Level 2

Earns high grades on assignments that challenge (completes assignments that require effort)

Level 3

**Learns with satisfaction and joy
(student is on the way to
becoming a lifelong learner)**

Why would you want your child to move up to another level of academic success?



How do you facilitate your child moving from one level to the next?



HOW DO YOU
FACILITATE
CHILDREN
MOVING TO THE
NEXT LEVEL
OF ACADEMIC
SUCCESS?

- 1.** Don't rescue the child from a challenge. Instead support him/her.

How a person views the origin of talent is important!

If you see talent as something you have to be demonstrated...

If you see talent as something to be developed...

HARD WORK IS ESSENTIAL TO SUCCESS

Malcom Gladwell, The Outliers

10,000 HOURS

CREATIVITY IS IMPORTANT.

WHY IS CREATIVITY IMPORTANT?

**Most inventions and breakthroughs
come from reassembling existing
ideas in new ways.**

Daniel Pink, A Whole New Mind

In a world in which more and more average work can be done by a computer, robot or talented foreigner, cheaper and just as well, vanilla doesn't cut it any more. It's all about what chocolate sauce, whipped cream and cherry you can put on top.

Daniel Pink

What can parents do to encourage challenge?

Parents should not shield or try to protect children from risks or hard work. Parents also need to allow children to experience the tensions and stress that rise from challenging ideas and expectations.

Paula Olszewski-Kubilius

Compare the number of young people from your local high school who went to college on athletic scholarships and academic scholarships.

**Encourage your child to accept a challenge
and to work hard to reach the goal.**

**Praise effort rather than being smart.
That message is so important.**

**Model what you want your child to do –
reading, working hard to achieve a goal.**

Know how important it is for your child to have peers – others who share his/her interests.

Encourage your children to be actively involved in their classes but also actively involved in other school or community activities that they enjoy.

Remember that challenge is a “must” if your child is going to be successful in college – a prelude to being successful in a career and in life.

State New & Global Economy Index Scores

In 1999, Kentucky ranked 39th in the nation in the overall adaptation to the New Economy.

In 2002, the state fell to 42nd.

In 2007, the state fell even more to 45th!

www.kauffman.org/pdf/2007_State_Index.pdf

<http://www.neweconomyindex.org/>

Number of Scientists & Engineers

1999	47
2002	47
2007	46

Number of Workforce Education

1999	49
2002	47
2007	47

Number of Online Population

1999	46
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2002	31
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2007	36
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Number of Patents

1999	41
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2002	45
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2007	48
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**It is not the strongest
of the species that survive,
nor the most intelligent,
but the ones most responsive to change.**

Charles Darwin