

Active Participation

October 2009

Active involvement between school and home is critical in academic and social achievement. Parents need to know what is being studied in school. This knowledge can be gained through resources such as Homework Hero, email, Parent Newsletters, and phone calls. Be ready to share any resources you, as a parent, may have about the topics being studied in the classrooms with your child. Informal conversations are always helpful and usually increase your child's interest in and connections to the topic.

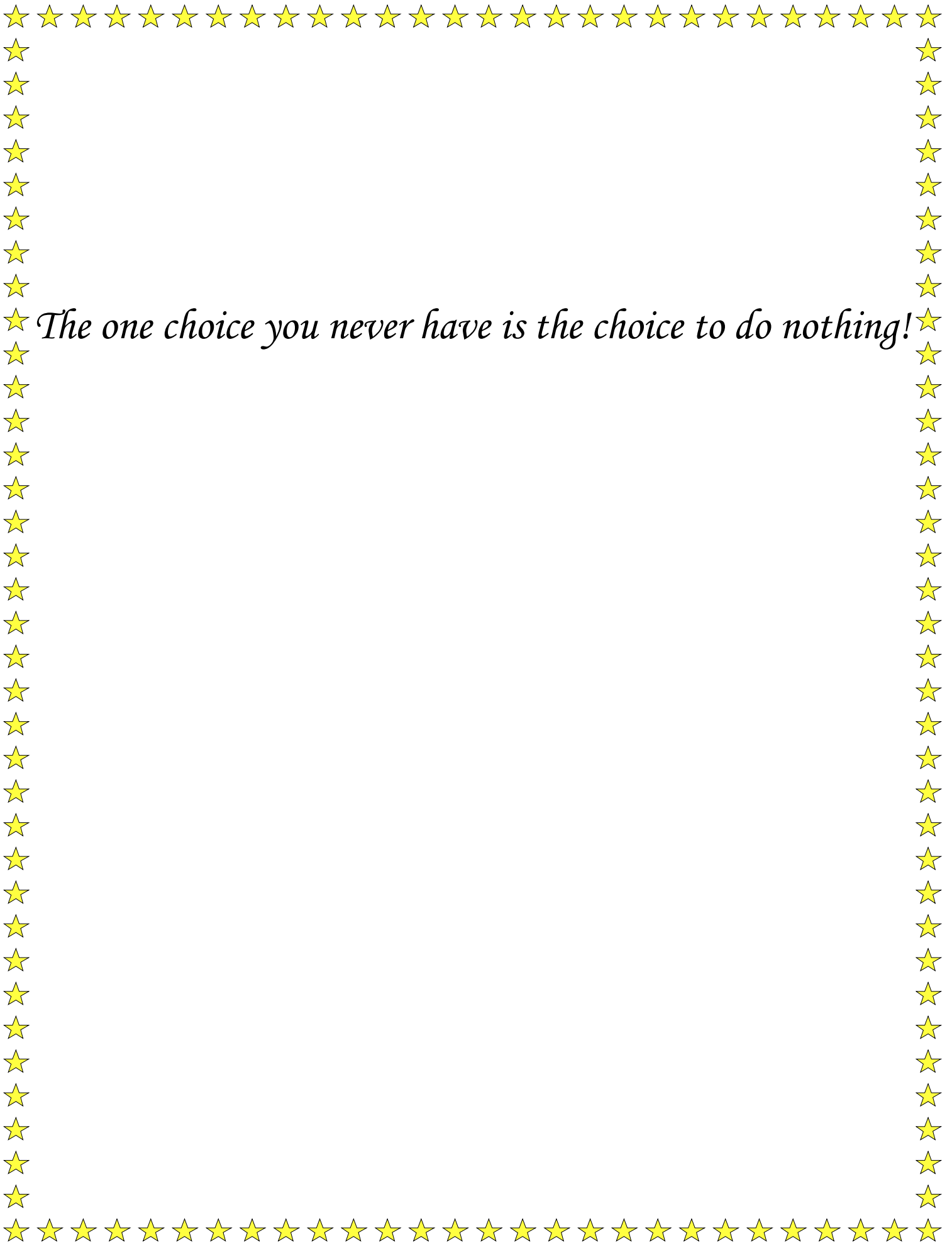


Research has shown that increased parent involvement can result in home environments that are conducive to learning and will improve communication and consistency between home and school. Positive parent involvement can result in his/her child having higher academic successes, higher attendance rates, and lower incidences of discipline referrals. Studies have also shown that positive parent involvement leads to greater teacher satisfaction and improved parent understanding and parent/child communication.

Parents can take active roles in helping their children learn by:

- Making learning a priority (show your child that learning is important and you value your relationship with the school)
- Praising effort and not over-emphasizing perfection (encourage them to do their best and learn from their mistakes)
- Keeping an open line of communication with them (talk to them about their day; look at their assignments and graded papers)
- Scheduling a regular time of the day for study (provide a place for them to complete their work)
- Limiting television/video game time (encourage more reading time and let them also see you reading)
- Communicating with their teacher (attend parent/teacher conferences, email, phone calls)
- Knowing what is happening at the school (check the school website for homework hero and schedule of events; read the parent newsletter and classroom newsletter when available)
- Being supportive of the school's disciplinary policies (go over school rules with your child and make sure they understand what is expected not only at the beginning of the school year but periodically throughout the school year)
- Volunteering when possible (open houses, PTSO, school activities and events, and parent teacher conferences)
- Encouraging extracurricular activities (ensure study time but encourage them to participate in school-wide events, this helps to build leadership skills and improve emotional and social skills)

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