

Art alive at Artistic Edge

Thanks to art lovers and city event organizers, locals can take to the streets of Sacramento and Arden Arcade getting their fill of all things artistic. The Second Saturday Art Walk is a way for local artists to have their works seen, enjoyed and possibly even sold to admiring patrons. Arden Arcade's Artistic Edge, 1880 Fulton Ave., is a participant in the event festivities, drawing dozens to the framing center and art gallery during their special show August 8.

All photos and cover photo by Danny Kam. Ben Hodapp contributed to this story.



Featured artist William Buell stands before his work at Artistic Edge.



Featured artist Curt Brandhorst, at right, talks with a guest at Artistic Edge.



Harry Hills admires the art work on Second Saturday.

Starting school right

Giving your student the best foot forward

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As we near the end of summer, it's time for parents to consider how they can best help their high school students prepare for the upcoming school year. Each year, the academic demands placed on students increase, and it's getting more and more difficult for teens to balance school with the rest of their lives. It's crucial for parents to take time now to have conversations with their children about the upcoming year and to help them set specific goals.

Think about what you want to discuss before speaking with your teen. Did your child do as well academically last year as he or she (or you) wanted, and what helped or hindered their success? Could you have done anything differently to support your teen's performance? After considering these and other questions, you'll be better prepared for your conversation.

Begin by asking your child to share his/her thoughts on how the last school year went. Encourage your teen to focus on both the areas in which goals were and were not met. Then ask them why they think this happened and what they could have done differently to bring about better results.

Next, help your teen set goals for the upcoming school year. These goals should include academic and extracurricular activities, both in and outside of school.

Encourage your child to consider what could get in the way of meeting these goals. If your teen is hoping to earn straight "A's," be the lead in the fall musical, and play three varsity sports, it would probably be unrealistic to work twenty hours a week outside school. It's important that you raise your concerns and help your child evaluate if the goals should be adjusted.

Ask your student to consider what types of extra support they think they'll need

and help them get it. Perhaps math isn't your son's strength, but he's still determined to take AP Calculus. Both compliment him for his willingness to challenge himself academically and remind him of the importance of seeking extra help when necessary. Encourage him to speak to his teacher sooner rather than later if he's struggling, and reassure him that you'll assist him with finding additional help, should it be necessary.

Help your child identify incentives for meeting these goals. Perhaps your daughter wants to buy her first car and would like your financial assistance. Let her know what help you'd be willing to provide, and be clear that it's connected to reaching the goals she sets. Be aware that many teens will attempt to convince you to provide this financial support ahead of time by promising to meet these goals, only to decrease their efforts once they get what they want. Should your teen attempt to influence you in this way, patiently remind her that your offer is good only *after* she reaches her goals.

Ultimately, the beginning of each school year brings chaos and upheaval. If students aren't prepared to put forth their best effort right from the start, it's simple to fall behind and feel buried within a couple of weeks. To help prevent this from happening, I encourage parents to take the time now to initiate honest conversations with your children about the upcoming year. If you help your teen identify potential problem areas and explore solutions ahead of time, I'm confident that they will be more prepared to respond effectively when the real challenges hit in a couple of weeks.

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