

NEED HOMEWORK HELP? LIBRARY OFFERS OPTIONS TO ASSIST STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES

In just a couple of weeks, students will already be headed back to school again, and that means homework assignments will be due before you know it! A 2014 National Center for Families Learning survey indicated that over 60 percent of parents had trouble helping their kids with homework. Common reasons included pushback from children, lack of understanding the subject matter or just plain being too busy.

Luckily for Redwood City parents and caregivers, help is on the way! The Redwood City Public Library (RCPL) has many options to provide assistance to students of all ages with their homework challenges.

For students who can visit any of RCPL's four locations in person, Homework Centers provide

assistance after school every Monday through Thursday during the school year. Visit www.redwoodcity.org/library/kids/homework.html for specific program hours at the Downtown, Fair Oaks, Redwood Shores and Schaberg libraries.

The Friends of the Redwood City Public Library sponsor free access to the Brainfuse HelpNow service, staffed by live, online tutors available from 1 to 10 p.m., seven days a week. Tutors are trained and certified to assist in a wide variety of subjects for students in grades four through college, and the service is available in both English and Spanish on the library website at www.redwoodcity.org/library/kids/homework.html. Redwood City and North Fair Oaks residents may access the service from any computer or mobile device with internet access, and residents of other communities can use the service on computers in any RCPL library.

While not specifically focused on homework, Project READ offers literacy programs for youth in grades one through 12 who read below grade level and who live or go to school in Redwood City or North Fair Oaks. One

specific program, Families in Partnership, is a dropout-prevention program that pairs students one-on-one with tutors to improve basic reading, writing and critical-thinking skills. Project READ also offers dual intervention literacy services for teens and elementary school age youth, as well as tutoring programs for parents. Visit the Project READ offices on the second floor of the Downtown Library, or call 650-780-7077 for more information.

Of course, in addition to homework-specific services, the library provides access to countless reference books, magazines and newspapers, and online databases on every subject under the sun. And all library staff are always happy to offer general assistance with homework or research inquiries. Visit www.redwoodcity.org/library or stop by to pay us a visit today to learn more. We look forward to seeing you at the library!

Editor's note: This article and information is supplied by Derek Wolfgram, library director at the Redwood City Public Library.