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# chase away the homework blues

School is back in session for the 2013-2014 academic year! In between getting to school on time, work, carpools, extracurricular activities and preparing dinner, where do parents find the time to help children with homework? The Tulsa City-County Library can take some of the stress away from homework and eliminate incomplete assignments.

Homework Help Now is an online database available through TCCL's website, [www.tulsalibrary.org](http://www.tulsalibrary.org), to help chase away those homework blues. Children and teens in kindergarten through 12th grade are connected to an online tutor and can get help with a specific question via "Live Help" or with a particular skill via "Skills Building." Students can login to the database with their library card number.

All tutors have been cleared with thorough background and reference checks, must possess a four-year degree and have prior teaching/tutoring experience. Tutors are available from 2-11 p.m., seven days a week.

Elementary school students in grades K-2 can log in to the Homework Help Now Database and receive "live help" and "skills building" in math and reading. Elementary school students in grades 3-6 can receive help in language arts, math, science, social studies and writing. Homework Help Now makes learning fun for



younger students and caters to all types of learning with skill-building activities such as crosswords, flashcards, matching, hangman, and hungry bug!

Aside from help for elementary students, Homework Help Now also offers valuable services to older students, even those preparing to enter college or the job market. The skills building service, testing center, and live one-on-one tutoring extends into middle and high school with subjects such as English, geometry,

algebra, biology, chemistry, social studies and many more. Students can log in to ask a very specific question that they are stuck on, or get help on overall concepts and subjects. Teens that prefer late night studying are not out of luck, Homework Help Now is available until 11 p.m.

One great feature for secondary students is the Writing Lab, which offers two kinds of writing assistance: Live Writing Assistance and an Intensive Writing Lab. Live tutors are available

to get students started with the writing process, which is especially helpful in the beginning stages when working on the overall structure and themes of an essay or research paper. The Intensive Writing Lab, on the other hand, offers a more detailed review of a student's work by a writing expert. The student submits his or her paper to a writing expert who, within one day, offers a thorough analysis that focuses on the mechanics of writing a successful paper, including voice, word choice, sentence fluency and organization. Since the library began subscribing to this service, more than 900 students have submitted papers to be reviewed. This helpful tool is great for beginning writers, who will strengthen and hone their skills, and who can later apply them to college classes and job experiences.

For students studying Spanish, the Language Lab section of Homework Help Now is a great resource. In the future, more languages will be added. Even students preparing for standardized tests such as the ACT, SAT or GED will find helpful resources, including practice tests with instant results.

All of this is available with a library card anywhere with Internet access. A link to this database is under the "Research and Learn" tab on our website, [www.tulsalibrary.org](http://www.tulsalibrary.org).