

Dear Parents,

Today in your child's class we began studying media literacy. We're talking about television and how it impacts people's lives in a variety of ways. We're asking students to keep a television diary. I'm writing to ask for your help in this homework activity.

The purpose of this exercise is to explore how much TV we watch as individuals and as a class, and the ways the experience affects us. My intent is not to judge anyone's viewing habits, but to have students explore them and think more consciously about them.

Please see the "TV Diary" attached. Each night, please have your child fill out the diary before going to bed. Your child should keep track of what shows he/she watches, and for how long (half-hour, one hour, etc.). Videos should be included in TV viewing time. Additionally, he/she should rate the program, using the scale shown.

We will examine our results next week, so please ask your child to bring the completed diary to class.

Should the activity spark your interest in getting more information on this topic, please see the family guide at <http://pbskids.org/dontbuyit/parentsguide.html#usingmedia>

Thank you for your assistance with this activity!

Sincerely,