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***WXXI’S HOMEWORK HOTLINE* PROVIDES LESSONS TO CONNECT
STUDENT LEARNING TO THE REAL WORLD**

**Live, Statewide Education Program Premieres September 11 at 4:30 p.m. on WXXI-TV**

**(Rochester, NY) September 5, 2017 *– Homework Hotline,*** thelive, statewide educational television program that provides students, in grades four through 12, with the tools needed to succeed with their homework, **kicks off a new season on Monday, September 11 at 4:30 p.m. on WXXI-TV and online at**[**homeworkhotline.org**](http://www.homeworkhotline.org/)**.** Produced by WXXI in partnership with Rochester Teachers Association (RTA), the program supports academic achievement across a variety of New York State Learning Standards. Teachers from the Rochester City School District host the show – teaching mini lessons in various curriculum topics to give more depth to problem solving and complex content.

The show’s format is changing to reflect how today’s students are accessing new digital learning tools and the differences in how homework is assigned. These changes provide opportunities to support learning in new ways. Additionally, RTA Dial-A-Teacher, the organization that routed homework questions to the show, was experiencing a decrease in call volume while facing funding shortages. Dial-A-Teacher decided to eliminate their call center and look for new ways to support students through *Homework Hotline’s* on-air and online resources. While the show is no longer taking live homework help calls, the show will still open phone lines during the broadcast for students to answer challenge questions to be listed in the *Homework Hotline* Hall of Fame.

The new season will put a stronger emphasis on connecting academic content to real world experiences. *Homework Hotline* will borrow tips from project-based learning to take a deeper dive into topics and make them more meaningful to students. The production team is also working closely with RTA to include content that helps maximize out-of-school-time for students and families. In addition, the show will be bringing in more guests – people who are experts in their field, such as professionals from the Seneca Park Zoo, Rochester Museum & Science Center, and other groups from around the area. Adding another layer of knowledge-building, these guests will share how the skills and content taught in the classroom are utilized daily in their own professions.

The series will continue to feature daily thematic segments on health, history, inclusion, the environment, and more. It will also continue to include student voices in the show through book reports and additional segments featuring students and student work.

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When students and families go digital with *Homework Hotline*at [homeworkhotline.org](http://www.homeworkhotline.org/) they will find video segments that are searchable by subject, plus there is access to interactive games, *Homework Hotline* polls, homework help tips and a list of educational links. *Homework Hotline* is also on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram, where it shares homework tips, behind-the-scenes work on the show, and entertaining educational facts.

*Homework Hotline* is made possible with state funding provided by the New York State United Teachers (NYSUT) and local support from Rochester Teachers Association.

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WXXI is the essential, life-long educational media resource for the Greater Rochester area. WXXI puts the community first with programming that stimulates and expands thought, inspires the spirit, opens cultural horizons and promotes understanding of diverse community issues. WXXI also has a long-term affiliation with Little Theatre, which helps enhance the cultural life of the community and strengthens two of Rochester's most vital arts institutions. Log on to [wxxi.org](http://www.wxxi.org/) for more information about our services and programs.