



School District of Weyauwega-Fremont

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It Takes Two Tips for successful parent-teacher communication

Effective communication is the result of some simple math: one plus one equals two. No matter how eloquent the speaker (or writer) is, communication doesn't occur unless the listener (or reader) understands the message. This simple truth is especially important for parents and teachers to remember since their successful communication is key to a student's academic success.

Here are ten tips to help parents and teachers communicate effectively with each other.

Tips For parents

Set up a time to talk in advance. Don't assume you can catch a teacher before or after school. Those are very busy times and teachers have little time to spare. Instead, ask the teacher when would be a good time to speak with her or him.

Be detailed. If you are talking to a teacher about a concern, be specific. Instead of saying, "Johnny is having trouble;" say "Johnny doesn't seem to understand his math homework."

Don't blame everything on the school (or the teacher). Problems in school usually stem from a combination of factors at home and at school. Be prepared to talk about situations at home that might be contributing to a problem at school (like the death of a pet, the arrival of a new baby, changes in a parent's job)

Listen to what the teacher is telling you. The teacher sees your child in a very different environment than you do and has experience and insight that you do not have.

Be willing to help. Be ready to try the teacher's suggestions for addressing a problem, which could mean extra time helping with homework, monitoring television or computer usage, or changing routines.

District Mission Statement:

Creating a foundation of excellence for success in tomorrow's world.

District Vision Statement:

Creating wisdom through pride, passion, and honor



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Tips For Teachers

Find the best way to contact each parent. Early each school year, send home a handout asking for email addresses and/or phone numbers and the best times to contact parents. Some prefer email; others prefer a phone call. Some parents can be contacted at work during the day; others cannot. Sending an email to a parent who rarely checks email is not an effective method of communication.

Contact parents as soon as a problem develops. Don't wait until a problem becomes so severe that drastic measures need to be taken. If you see a problem behavior developing with a child, contacting the parents and seeking their help in addressing the problem will make finding a solution much easier.

Don't be defensive. When talking to parents, remember that you all share a common goal of helping their child succeed. Listen carefully to what parents are saying without interrupting or trying to offer explanations. If parents feel as if you are truly listening to what they have to say, they will be more willing to hear what you have to say and be more open to any suggestions from you.

Find something positive to say. All parents know their child is special and enjoy hearing their child praised. Finding something encouraging to say about a child's behavior – even while you are meeting to discuss a problem – will help a parent feel more positive about seeking a solution to the problem and not feel as if all is lost.

Keep things confidential. When you meet with parents, talk only about their child and his or her behavior. Do not talk about other children in the class and do not tell other parents about the conversation.

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