

KENTON KRAMER

FRANKLIN ROAD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

A POSITIVE APPROACH TO PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

COMMUNICATING WITH PARENTS

GOALS OF COMMUNICATING WITH PARENTS

- ▶ Psalm 19:14 "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, my redeemer."
- ▶ To create a team effort to train the child
- ▶ To reach the parents spirituality

UNDERSTANDING A PARENT'S MINDSET

- ▶ Genesis 25:28 "And Isaac loved Esau, because he did eat of his venison: but Rebekah loved Jacob."
- ▶ They are biased
- ▶ They are focused on their child only
- ▶ Parents know the child in a different context

7 THINGS PARENTS WISH TEACHERS KNEW

1. They fear that their child will not succeed, and will embarrass them.
2. The teachers will not communicate clearly, causing their child to miss an assignment.
3. The teacher may not like their child.
4. The teacher does not value parental input.
5. They are liable to act somewhat irrational if their child's well being is at stake.

7 THINGS PARENTS WISH TEACHERS KNEW

6. It is hard to trust others with their most precious commodity.
7. A kind word about their child means more than they could possibly express.

TEACHER ATTRIBUTES THAT PROMOTE PARTNERSHIP

- ▶ Warmth
- ▶ Openness
- ▶ Sensitivity
- ▶ Flexibility
- ▶ Reliability
- ▶ Accessibility
- ▶ Consistency

ROADBLOCKS TO EFFECTIVE PARENT-TEACHER RELATIONSHIPS

- ▶ Amos 3:3 "Can two walk together, except they be agreed."
- ▶ Only partially support the parents' wishes for the child.
- ▶ Teacher doesn't support school's programs with the parents.
- ▶ Be sensitive to parents' moods and needs.

ROADBLOCKS TO EFFECTIVE PARENT-TEACHER RELATIONSHIPS

- ▶ Discuss one parent in front of other parents.
- ▶ Allow yourself to get pulled into a marital matter.
- ▶ Tell parents you don't know something without helping them to find an answer.

HOW TO FOSTER GOOD PARENT RELATIONSHIPS

- ▶ Let parents know that you care and they can contact you with concerns.
- ▶ Practice an open-mind policy.
- ▶ Involve parents in classroom activities.
- ▶ Document conversations.
- ▶ Have positive purposeful conversation.
- ▶ Be non-defensive.
- ▶ Be alert to family needs.
- ▶ Separate personal matters from school.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE PREPARATION

- ▶ Pray for wisdom and understanding.
- ▶ Prepare with a positive attitude.
- ▶ Determine the place, time, and who will be present.
 - ▶ Relaxed but controlled setting
 - ▶ 30-45 minutes
 - ▶ Both parents if possible
- ▶ Evaluate the student's cumulative file.
 - ▶ Achievement test, Intelligence test, Previous teacher reports, Discipline reports, Prior conferences, Attendance records, Report card grades

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE PREPARATION

- ▶ Determine the child's ability to learn.
 - ▶ Compare ability with achievement
 - ▶ Compare SAT scores for the past three years
 - ▶ Explain to parents how to interpret scores
- ▶ Identify positive and negative learning patterns
 - ▶ Evaluate past history to help explain present behavior and learning
 - ▶ Why does a child behave in a certain manner?
 - ▶ Boredom, physical problems, poor home environment, or low self-esteem

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE PREPARATION

- ▶ Design remedial, supplemental, or enrichment work.
 - ▶ Teacher may need to adapt teaching methods
 - ▶ Teacher may need to prepare additional learning activities
 - ▶ Prepare suggestions of what parents can do
- ▶ Investigate the student's home and church life.
- ▶ Anticipate questioning from parents.
- ▶ Visit with teachers who have previously taught the student.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE PREPARATION

- ▶ Discuss the problems and solutions with the administrator.
- ▶ Put your plan in writing.

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE RULES TO FOLLOW

- ▶ Approach conference prayerfully.
- ▶ Start with a compliment-worst child has some good features.
- ▶ Establish joint responsibility for the student.
- ▶ Avoid educational double talk-don't talk down to the parent but be truthful and honest.
- ▶ Get down to business-don't waste time.
- ▶ Be unhurried. Relax. Let the parent feel that this time is your highest priority.

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE RULES TO FOLLOW

- ▶ Encourage the parent to give information about the child.
- ▶ Be open-minded. Be willing to change your opinion.
- ▶ Talk about differences in children but do not compare one child with another.
- ▶ Talk about ability and progress.
- ▶ Do not criticize past teachers.
- ▶ Have student's portfolios ready for observation

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE RULES TO FOLLOW

- ▶ Let the parents know what you will do in the classroom to address the issue.
- ▶ Ask parent if they would be willing to help.
- ▶ Suggest specific steps that parents can take that will help their child be successful.
- ▶ Provide instructional materials to aid parents in helping their child at home.
- ▶ Establish a follow-up plan.

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

- ▶ Send a note home thanking parents for coming and reminding them of the plan that was agreed upon.
- ▶ Let parents know how things are going after the first week.
- ▶ Let the child know that you enjoyed talking to his/her parents. If there is a plan of action, tell the child.

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