

# Parents – A Valuable Resource

# Insight

- *When parents walk through the doors of the school house they see their past. Whereas, when children walk through the same doors they see the future and their teacher as the person who will lead them out successfully.*

- Larry Lezotte, Ed.D.

# Parents

- Know child best
- Hear about child's teacher
- Remember own experiences
- Need guidance on issues
- May feel guilt over circumstances

# Teachers

- Provide warmth, empathy, and respect
- Spend lots of time with child
- Hear about child's home
- Want answers
- Not authority on all subjects

# Parent's Wish List for teachers

- Build child's self-esteem
- Get to know child's needs
- Communicate often with parents/family
- Regularly assign "needed" homework not busy work
- Set high academic standards
- Encourage parental participation
- Understand all children learn differently
- Treat all children fairly
- Use positive discipline
- Care about children

# Teacher's Wish List for parents

- Be involved in child's education
- Provide resources at home
- Set good example
- Expect child's best at school
- Put academics first
- Support school rules
- Use pressure positively
- Call teacher about problems
- Assume parental responsibility
- Understand alcohol, tobacco, and excessive partying are problems as serious as drug abuse

# Communication

- Contact
  - Phone calls
  - Newsletters
  - Encounters
  - Notes
  - Class Dojo – Elementary
  - Remind - Secondary
- Scheduled Conferences

Communication builds bridges between school and home, helps in developing appropriate goals, develops a partnership between home and school.

# What to do to help (For Parents)?

- Provide input in decision-making
- Visit school
- Get to know your child's teacher
- Be involved, not intrusive
- Share unique insights about your child
- Offer to assist with projects
- Know and support classroom rules
- Speak respectfully of the teacher in front of your child



# Keys to success for teachers and parents

- *Let your advance worrying become advance thinking and planning –*  
Winston Churchill
- Have a sense of humor
- Be accepting
- Keep positive attitude
- Listen
- Watch body language
- Be sincere and respectful

*The best formula for a child's success in school is a strong partnership between parents and teachers. Both have special skills and insights to share.*

- Keep lines of communication open
- Recognize your child's version is only one side of the story
- Don't over-react
- Respect the teacher's skills and knowledge
- Respect the parents' observations and knowledge of child
- Recognize the value of teamwork

# Parent Compact – Provided with Registration and available at Teacher Conferences

- **What is a School Parent Compact?**
- A School-Parent Compact is an agreement that parents, students, and teachers develop together. It explains how parents and teachers will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement. The compact will be distributed during registration, during parent-teacher conferences and at the Annual Title I Parent Meeting. This form will also be placed on the district/campus websites.
- Effective Compacts:
  - Explain how teachers and parents will have two-way, meaningful communication about student progress. Parent conferences will be held at least annually for elementary schools.
  - Describe opportunities for parents to volunteer, observe, and participate in the classroom
  - Describe how teachers will help students develop those skills using high-quality instruction
  - Share strategies parents can use at home
  - Link goals of the school improvement plan
  - Focus on student learning skills