

SEPTEMBER 2020

Vol. 1

LET'S TALK ABOUT: COMMUNICATION

PARENT NEWSLETTER



WHY?

HOW?

WHAT?

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Not being face-to-face every day in school has taken a toll on the students, staff, and parents alike. Now, more than ever, our communication between home and school is very important.

At school we have lots of messages to share such as upcoming events, food distribution/lunch news, homework/test deadlines, academic video calls, resources, and student progress.

Here's what our staff has to say about communication:

*We must relay all messages (big and small) to home and school. We must have a way or ways to contact home to share these messages.

*Teachers have vital information to share, but so do the parents; parents know first hand the barriers that our students are experiencing-some of that info is helpful when teaching a student.

*Communication=proactivity; more communication= less crisis

HOW TO COMMUNICATE?

-Two-Way Communication-

Turn one-way communication into two by providing a response to teachers' reminders, notices, and general posts. Two-way communication is far more effective and creates better working relationships between parent and teacher.

-Working Methods-

Please be sure you have access to one successful working method of communication. That could be text, calls, social media messages, email, etc. Whatever works best for you make sure the teacher knows what that is and check it DAILY. If there's a problem with a method, please reach out immediately in some way-through a neighbor or friend if you have to.

-Common OPS Methods-

Remind, Dojo, Google Classroom
Email, Text/Call, website, OPS app.

Do we have most up to date info in our system?



WHAT ?S SHOULD/CAN I ASK?

Always check Google Classroom and the school website, first! Lots of information, advice, and tips on both of those platforms.

Students

- Upcoming assignment deadlines?
- How to use a virtual platform-like Google Classroom or Zoom?
- Specific assignment questions? - clarification on wording, help with process
- Am I taking attendance correctly?
- My internet isn't working-what should I do in the meantime?

Parents

- Am I taking attendance correctly?
- How to use a virtual platform?
- Do you have internet assistance?
- How is my student's progress/participation?
- What else should I be doing to help my child?

SOME COMMON Qs AND THEIR ANSWERS

Inquiring minds want to know...

When will we be able to go back full time?

The answer is we don't know. We monitor what the Illinois State Board of Education is saying along with the guidance and mandates from the Illinois Department of Public Health. We make decisions based on what is most safe for our community.

Where can we get internet?

Check the No Internet? news article on the school website. There are several community businesses that offer free Internet. Reach out to Mrs. Loepker or your teacher for other internet options.

How am I supposed to learn this way?

We understand it is very difficult to learn in a virtual world. Teachers would prefer to teach you face-to-face. All we ask for is your best effort! Use this time to focus on perfecting things like your time management, self-control, and other principles.

I'm so behind, how do I raise my grades?

Start with the required work for today. Once you've completed that, work backwards! Start with most recent because old assignments may not get you points (too late?). Do something EVERY day. Don't skip days (except weekends). Attend every virtual meeting- participation points are BIG!

