

# Building Relationships with Parents, Guardians, and Stakeholders

## Cultivating Positive Relationships with Parents and Families



“ Students and parents **don't** care what you know **until** they know that **you care.** ”

-Dr. Kendrick Johnson, Frontier Educational Consulting

### Communication Dimensions

#### 1 Inclusive Environments

##### *Making learning environments guardian-friendly*

- Greet parents and family members by name
- Identify parent/family preferred language
- Do not make assumptions about a student's home life
- Be an active listener
- Acknowledge parent/family concerns

**TIP #1** - Send a individualized message to both students and families welcoming their child to your class.

**TIP #2** - Provide parents and guardians with a survey that allows them to share their preferences for contact and rank how they would like to partner with you in their child's learning.

#### 2 Strategic Connections

##### *Utilize various forms of connection strategies*

- Consistently make positive phone calls about student behavior or academic growth
- Host virtual meetings with parents/families to ask additional questions about their students, also providing opportunities to ask questions

**Scenario:**

*At least once a month, a message is sent to parents/guardians about the great work their student has done.*

**TIP #3** - If being completed manually, schedule messages to be shared by composing a traditional text, click the '+' or 'more' icon and select 'schedule message.'

**TIP #4** - Use a free text reminder service, such as Remind, which allows integration into certain applications (ex. Google Classroom and Canvas).

#### 3 Resourcefulness

##### *Empower parents to feel capable of helping their child*

- Provide additional resources parents and families can use to help students develop skills
- Share strategies that parents and families could implement in their homes; consider the varying ways and demands parents and families may have
- Provide tips on how to help students optimize their learning experience by remaining organized

**Scenario:**

*Parents/families are encouraged to be a great resource to their student's learning.*

**TIP #5** - Be aware of the diverse school experiences of parents and their comfortability with the institution of schooling.

**TIP #6** - Prep parents and families for upcoming complexity in learning and provide strategies for how to guide their child during that time. Ensure that these strategies can be conveyed in multiple ways (ex. video, text, images).

**TIP #7** - Connect what students are learning in class (ex. algebra) to real-world work experiences. Have parents share their diverse work experiences (ex. homemaker and construction worker) through a video for students.

#### 4 Partnership

##### *Reimagine how parents and families can be involved in the learning process*

- Develop awareness of the parents' and families' skillsets and consider how those skills could be beneficial to learning experiences
- Conduct brainstorming sessions with parents on how to enhance learning at home

#### References

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- Farmer, G. (2020, November 17). *Building parent-teacher relationships is hard. Remote learning makes it harder.* Chalkbeat. <https://www.chalkbeat.org/2020/11/17/21564443/parent-teacher-relationships-remote-learning>