

Back to School During COVID-19

Communicating with Your Child's Teacher



Going back to school with a virtual or hybrid model during the COVID-19 pandemic will require teachers and families to work together and communicate even more than before. With many changes to policies and operations, staying informed and connected may reduce your feelings of anxiety and provides a way for you to support your child's learning at home. See below for some communication tips to consider.

- ▶ **Be proactive.** Establish positive communication with your child's teachers right away. Find out their preferred method of communication and the best times to reach them. Determine your questions and ask for details up front, which will eliminate many problems later. Consider information you need to know such as:

How will absences or late arrivals be handled?

How will assignments be turned in?

Is parent help for homework encouraged?

What are the details for the teacher's learner motivation plan?

How are students held accountable?

How will learning be personalized remotely?

Will there will be regular opportunities for teacher-student check-ins remotely?

- ▶ **Work collaboratively with teachers.** If you have questions or concerns throughout the year, address them in a non-confrontational manner, and be open-minded to partner towards a solution.
- ▶ **Be supportive of your child's teachers.** Remember that none of us have been through this pandemic before and teachers are working to provide students with the best possible learning opportunities under the circumstances. Speak positively about them in front of your children and remember to express your gratitude to teachers directly.
- ▶ **Focus on your child's best interests.** Most importantly, remember that when parents and teachers work together, a child has a team of caring and consistent adults who are committed to bringing out the child's best!