

It Starts at Home

About parent-teacher meetings

Parents and teachers need to communicate well to best support the student's well-being and academic achievement. Parents have a lot of information to share with teachers and teachers have a lot of information to share with parents. Parents and teachers should both feel at ease to ask each other questions.

Teachers should encourage parents to write their questions and concerns before the parent-teacher meeting. Parents can reflect on their child's school work throughout the school year to help formulate questions.

Finally, teachers should welcome and encourage parents to contact them throughout the school year, not just at report card meetings.

Sample questions for parents to ask teachers:

- Is my child performing at his or her grade level?
- What are my child's strengths and needs in reading, writing, math, and science?
- How much time should my child spend on homework?
- Are my child's assignments completed accurately?
- Does the school have special programs to meet my child's needs and gifts?
- Does my child have special learning needs? If so, what resources are available? Do you keep a folder of my child's work? If yes, could you review it with me?
- Does my child have close friends? How well does my child get along with others?
- What can we do at home to support classroom learning?
- What is the best way to keep in touch with you?

Additional questions for parents to ask middle and high school teachers:

- How can I help my child work independently and make the best use of time?
- How can I help my child prepare for high school?
- What can you tell me about peer pressure and how I can help my child handle difficult situations, such as drugs, alcohol, and sex?
- What courses should my child take to satisfy graduation requirements?
- Are there career planning sessions for my child to take? How can I participate?
- Do you have a list of courses my child should take to enter post-secondary programs, such as college, university, and trades?
- If my child plans to pursue post-secondary education, how will the school help with the application process? How will the school help my child find out about financial aid?