



January Staying Connected

Elementary School

Let them be heard – Consider hosting an “Open Forum”. Choose a night or nights where you can be online to discuss topics regarding school and students. Allowing dialogue between parents and yourself. You could send out a note asking them for suggestions on topics, concerns they would like to discuss or questions. Topics they would like to know more about regarding their child’s education, social and emotional skills, peer pressure, etc. Allow time to build relationships and for parents/guardians to build relationships with one another. Families want to know that you are listening to their concerns. Often, we go instantly into solution mode. Leave space for simply listening. When ready, it is ok to ask open-ended questions like “how are you feeling?” or “what can I do to make you feel better?” Listen to their answers and work together in processing their thoughts.

Here is a sample survey for families to fill out for help in choosing topics.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc7km dFdO5_0eeOxViQ3kEcNDS9RCMvIOWBC-PLgnvsWEwDCw/viewform

Reading Buddies–Reach out to those with young children and offer to read or entertain them virtually. Ask older students to read a story online to a younger student. Primary teachers can meet with upper elementary teachers, pair up students and provide children’s books and ask the older student to meet online with a younger student and share the story together. Hopefully build a friendship between the upper elementary student and the primary student. Remember to follow online safety guidelines. www.mcgruff.org

Middle School/High School

Let them be heard – Consider hosting an “Open Forum”. Choose a night or nights where you can be online to discuss topics regarding school and students. Allowing dialogue between parents/families and yourself. Send out a note asking them for suggestions for topics or concerns they would like to discuss or questions. Topics they would like to know more about regarding their child’s education, social and emotional skills, peer pressure, etc. Allow time to build relationships and for parents/guardians to build relationships with one another. They want to know that you are listening to their concerns. Often, we go instantly into solution mode. Leave space for simply listening. When ready, it is ok to ask open-ended questions like “how are you feeling?” or “what can I do to make you feel better?” Listen to their answers and work together in processing their thoughts. Parents might be interested in learning more about peer pressure, internet safety, career readiness, vaping.

Here is a sample survey for families to fill out for help in choosing topics.

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Ask local community members, business owners, medical professionals, etc.to do an online Career Day. Ask them to create a video for families/students to watch and then have the opportunity to visit online about their jobs, what kind of education did they have, and the steps it takes to do their jobs.

Ask and encourage community members to serve as mentors to students, providing support and coaching as students begin to think about work, college, and life after high school.

Remember to follow online safety guidelines.