

How Can I Support My Child's Education?

The Teaneck Public School District recognizes that parents and families are the child's first and most influential teachers, and as such, strives to provide up-to-date information on supporting the academic and social growth of your children.

Establish a daily routine - provide time and a quiet place to study and complete homework. Discuss school assignments, show general concern for quality and accuracy.

Encourage reading, writing and discussion - keep books, magazines, and newspapers in the house. Show your child that you enjoy learning new things and discussing new ideas.

Monitor out-of-school activities - set limits on TV watching and playing video games - make sure the programs and games are appropriate to your child's age and reflect the values you want to teach. Know your child's friends and be aware of their activities.

Model the value of learning, self-discipline and hard work - communicate with your child, demonstrate that achievement comes from working hard.

Set and discuss limits - teach your child that there are consequences to inappropriate behavior.

Discuss problem solving - teach your child how to solve problems and find ways to deal with anger that do not include verbal or physical abuse. Be a role model in the way you handle your anger.

Discuss the school's code of conduct with your child - show support for the established rules and help your child understand the reasons for them.

Express high but realistic expectations for achievement - set goals and standards that are appropriate for your child's age and ability, encourage special talents, validate and praise success.

Discuss everyday school matters - listen openly to problems as well as successes.

Demonstrate to your child how to be a responsible citizen - vote in local, state, and national elections, participate in community activities or volunteer work.

Be visible at your child's school - in addition to parent-teacher conferences, communicate often with your child's teacher, counselor and/or principal.

Show an interest - know what your child is learning in school and how well he is doing. Know when report cards are scheduled.

Avoid assigning blame - don't criticize your child's teacher in the child's presence. When parents blame teachers and teachers blame parents for a child's poor performance, nobody wins. Instead, acknowledge the problem and work together to solve it.

Avoid the rumor mill - remember that individuals passing on information may have misunderstood or misinterpreted a situation. In addition, an individual may have a vested interest in spreading misinformation. Before you act on information, ensure the accuracy of what you have heard. Check with your child's teacher, counselor or building principal.

Helpful tools

Parents are encouraged to keep the following list of documents on hand. The information below will help to keep you up-to-date on school requirements and activities. If you need a copy of any of these documents, contact your child's school for assistance. Most of this information is also available on the district's website:

www.teaneckschools.org

- Current school calendar
- School procedure/phone number for reporting absences
- Phone number/e-mail address for your child's teacher
- Phone number for your child's school
- eBoards for up-to-date information about homework assignments, tests, class work
- Student/Parent Handbook
- Student Code of Conduct
- Bus information and Standards of Conduct while riding the school bus - if your child is transported to school
- Information on the Free and Reduced Lunch Program
- MyNutriKids

How to Address Specific Issues Involving Your Child

Begin by contacting the teacher. Most problems/concerns can be successfully resolved at the classroom level by parents and teachers working together.

If the issue goes beyond something the teacher can address, contact the principal's office to schedule an appointment. He or she will work with you and your child's teacher to reach a solution in the best interest of all involved.

Special Education - contact your child's case manager and/or the Department of Specialized Educational Services at (201)833-5133 or (201)862-2319.

Classroom Visitation

Parents are always welcome to visit their child's classroom. Please make arrangements with your child's teacher in advance and stop by the main office to secure a visitor's pass. So that your visit may provide optimum results, classroom schedules, testing and assembly programs should be taken into consideration. Many classrooms have organized visitation periods which will enhance the visit and will not interrupt scheduled activities.

As a reminder, a classroom visit does not translate into a teacher conference. Questions or concerns related specifically to your child should be discussed at a pre-arranged time, either by phone or conference. In addition, principals retain the authority to deny access to the school by any individual who has or may disrupt or disturb the learning environment or safety of any student.

Make the Most of Your Parent-Teacher Conference

Come prepared. Talk to your child about his/her impression of how he/she is doing in school, what he/she thinks about the teacher(s), school assignments, environment.

Sample Questions:

How does my child interact with classmates?

Does my child pay attention in class? Is he/she experiencing problems?

What are my child's academic strengths and weaknesses?

What skills/knowledge will my child be expected to master this year?

How do you accommodate differences in learning?

How will my child be evaluated?

How can I best help my child's academic success?

District Involvement

Parents who want to get involved in school decisions and advocacy in a more formal way can also join one of the many parent organizations in the district. These range from school-based groups such as PTOs and Building Quality Management Teams to districtwide organizations such as the Textbook Advisory Committee and Teaneck Organization for Public Schools (TOPS). In addition, you can follow the activities of the Board of Education by attending monthly meetings, traditionally held on the second Wednesday of each month at 8:00 p.m. in the Cheryl Miller-Porter Student Center (3rd floor) at Teaneck High School. Check our website for dates and times.

www.teaneckschools.org

Volunteering

- Spend time at school, in the community, or at home helping in a way that is comfortable for you.
- Offer to speak with students about your job, culture, hobbies, and life experience.
- Agree upon ways to assist your child's teacher in the classroom.
- Help students learn about your culture through food, music or other activities.
- Escort the class on field trips.
- Set up a class phone chain or e-mail list.

For more information on these and other parent involvement opportunities, contact Therise Edwards - Coordinator of Volunteers and Community Outreach at (201) 862-2343.

School Closings or Delayed Openings:

Announcements will be broadcast over radio stations 880 AM and 1010 AM, television Channels 2, 4, 5, 7, Cablevision Channel 12 and FiOs1 News by 6:30 a.m.

How Do I Connect:

Principals

Bryant School
Dr. Bourne-Busby
(201) 833-5545

Whittier School
Suzanna Kaplan
(201) 833-5535

Lowell School
Leslie Abrew
(201) 833-5550

Hawthorne School
Dr. Spollen-LaRaia
(201) 833-5540

Benjamin Franklin
Dr. Lennox Small
(201) 833-5451

Thomas Jefferson
Angela Davis
(201) 833-5471

Teaneck High School
Dennis Heck
(201)862-2510

Central Office Personnel

Barbara Pinsak	Superintendent of Schools (201) 833-5510
Linda Kuhran	Executive Assistant to Superintendent (201) 833-5510
Vincent McHale	Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction (201) 833-5130
Robert Finger	School Business Administrator/ Board Secretary (201) 833-5527
Maureen Edwards	Director of Specialized Educational Services (201) 833-5482
Karen Yucht	Director of Community Education Center (201) 833-5533

Board of Education Members

Dr. Ardie Walser, President, walser@ccny.cuny.edu
Gervonn Rice, Vice President, ricekrispies@optonline.net
Herbert Burack, buracktboe@gmail.com
Dr. David Diuguid, ddiuguidtboe@verizon.net
Margaret Embree Fisher, mefisher@optonline.net
Dr. Henry Pruitt, drhjpfish@aol.com
Sebastian Rodriguez, sebrodz@gmail.com
Herbert Rose, brierrose1@aol.com
Clara Williams, cmitchwill@gmail.com



Teaneck Public Schools ***A Quick Reference Guide for Parents***

The Teaneck Public School district values its partnership with you in fulfilling our mission "That Each May Learn."

To ensure that all community members feel welcome in our schools and that parents and guardians have the information needed to assist with the home-school partnership, we have prepared this reference guide of quick facts and district contacts. Since student achievement is our number one priority, we are continually updating the information and support we provide our families, so remember to routinely check out the district website: www.teaneckschools.org

What Can I Expect From Schools and Staff?

- Information on all aspects of school operation including policies, course work and expectations, discipline procedures, school activities, student services and optional or enrichment programs.
- Ongoing information from teachers and schools regarding positive student behavior and achievement, not just misbehavior or failure.
- Opportunities for parent-teacher conferences throughout the school year: regularly scheduled, on an as-needed basis, or upon request.
- Information concerning expectations for students and how parents can reinforce positive behavior and help with learning at home.
- Respect for family and its role with regard to raising children.
- Assistance in linking families with community resources and programs that provide support.
- Policies that support and respect family responsibilities while recognizing a variety of parenting traditions and differences.
- Translation of communications into appropriate languages.

