



FOSTERING PARENT-TEACHER PARTNERSHIPS

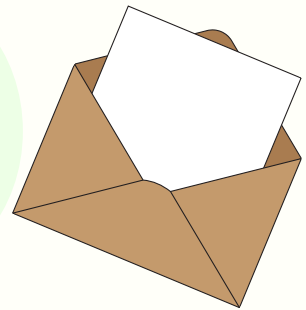
By Sumbel Malik., M.Psy

How to build strong communication and collaboration between home and school to support student success

Students spend time with teachers at school for a great amount of time. It is important to have clear communication and positive interactions in order to facilitate a strong support system for the individual student. Here are some strategies on how to do so.

1. Communicate on a regular basis.

Staying up to date about what your child is doing well in and what they need more support with may increase dialogue between parent and teacher, in addition to fostering the development of teamwork between parent and teacher about how to help the student in areas of need. This can be done by attending parent-teacher conferences or periodic emails or phone calls.



2. Help the teacher get to know your child.

You are the expert when it comes to your child. Sharing information about your child's strengths, challenges, and how to help when needed will assist the teacher to facilitate a consistent environment from home to school as your child will adapt to the same expectations and strategies.



3. Participate in the school community.

If you are able, becoming involved in school initiatives could help you be more involved in your child's education. It may help you feel more comfortable in the school environment and can help create a sense of connection with the teacher. It is also understandable that caregivers do not always have extra time to become actively involved in school initiatives. Just reading the school newsletters or keeping up to date with what is happening in your school community also goes a long way!

ABOUT
ME



Cell Phones in Schools: A Changing Landscape

By Dr. Jill Shuster,
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We continue to learn more about the impact of cell phones on students' learning, attention, and social/emotional development. As we learn new information, it is important to put policies in place to support students' well-being.

The TDSB is developing a Cell Phone Use in Schools Policy, which can be found [here](#).

The main points are:

- All members of the school community must not use personal devices during instructional time with some exceptions;
- Students in grade 6 and below must store devices out of view for the full instructional day while students in grade 7 to 12 must store devices out of view for during each instructional period. Educators require devices that are visible to be placed by the student in a storage location.

To best support student learning, educators, students, and caregivers should work together to review this policy and make a plan to minimize distractions during the school day. Alternative coping strategies, such as taking movement breaks or checking in with an on-site caring adult, can also be created to ensure students feel supported.

The policy and how it is implemented could be discussed and reviewed by each educator at the start of each semester or school year.

Here are some resources for caregivers and students:

[Managing Screen Time](#)

[5 Strategies for Parents to Free the Anxious Generation](#)



[The Anxious Generation](#)
by Jonathan Haidt ([book & resources](#))

[About Screen Time and Technology](#)