

A Parent's Guide to A Successful Experience With Your Child's Teachers

At Earl Warren we believe in parents and teachers **working as a team** to help each student reach his/her potential. We all want the same goal...a successful middle school experience for your child.

Middle school is one of the first opportunities your child has to begin learning the skills needed to become a successful, well-adjusted adult. Having six different teachers, all with varied teaching styles and expectations, provides a rich environment to teach your child effective communication and problem-solving skills. It is paramount that you teach and encourage your child to practice respectful communication and problem-solving skills with his/her teachers. One of the best ways to teach your child these skills is through practice. If an issue presents itself, encourage your child to deal with the issue on his/her own first. Role-play with your child, providing feedback when needed. Be sure to follow up with your child to make sure the issue is resolved. If you feel it requires your intervention, keep your child involved in the process. This provides you with an excellent opportunity to model effective communication.

Before contacting the teacher, **gather accurate information before placing judgment.** You can empathetically respond to your child's feelings while also knowing that more information may help you to better understand the situation. It is critical that you do not make assumptions. A conversation with the teacher will give you a more complete picture of the situation.

There are a few ways to make contact with a teacher:

- Send an email.
- Send a note to school with your child.
- Leave a voicemail message for the teacher. Be sure to include the reason you are calling so the teacher can leave a helpful message if you are unavailable when he/she returns your call.
- Schedule an appointment to meet with the teacher. Before the meeting, write down your questions so the short time you are there is as productive as possible. Make sure your child attends the meeting, even if he/she feels uncomfortable. This is an excellent opportunity for your child to see effective communication skills modeled. It is important that your child have input into the issues discussed and the decisions that are made.

Please note: All guests to the school must check in at the front office.

Remember that teachers have the success of their students as their first priority.