

In Session with the “Oriole” Superintendent

By, Mark D. Rosekrans, Superintendent of Charlotte Public Schools

Parent Communication and Engagement with School

Tuesday will mark the sixth week of the school year. By now, students, families and staff are into established routines as the school year has settled in. Time will continue to pass quickly and before long, the weather will turn colder, the holidays will be upon us and a full transition will begin from fall to winter.

As the school year moves forward, I would like to encourage parents and guardians to take time to communicate and engage with their students at home and with their school. For the success of your child, this needs to be a priority. Please let me explain what I mean by communication and engagement as I believe they are two very different things.

Communication is critical between school and parents as information must be shared to ensure your student’s success. This communication needs to be frequent and intentional as events and happenings are constantly going on in our schools. Athletics, performing arts events, clubs and organizations, PTO meetings, and many other school and student activities are communicated to you in newsletters, emails, on media sites, in news releases and through automated Skylert calls.

Communication from home to school is invaluable for our school personnel. We need parents or guardians to call, email or make personal contact as appropriate to communicate important information about your student or family. We need to know if your child is sick, needs extra help in a subject area, or has a circumstance outside of school that could potentially have a negative impact on their success here. When parents or guardians communicate with our teachers, administrators and/or office staff, it ensures we know what is happening and how best to serve your child and family.

Engagement between the home and school is different than communication. Students come to school and engage with their classmates, teachers, administrators, coaches, advisors, counselors and many other staff members on a daily basis. These interactions help your student achieve and succeed to the best of their ability. However, for parents and guardians, engagement with the school takes extra effort. We understand families are busy and have multiple things to take care of. We encourage engagement with your student and their school to be at the top of your list. You can engage with your child by asking about their homework, reading with them, practicing concepts with them, and showing interest and encouraging them with assigned projects. You can then engage with the school by going to parent teacher conferences, attending a sporting event, volunteering, participating in a school improvement team or survey, attending a performance, or by being an athletic or band booster, just to name a few. Parent/guardian engagement shows your children, our students, that you are an involved and a committed partner with us. It indicates to them the importance of education and that you care and want them to grow and advance in the classroom, on the performance stage, on the playing field or court, in a club or in an organization.

We want and need both communication and engagement. Communication and engagement once started will soon become natural and easy. Please become an active part in your child’s education and make communication and engagement a priority with our schools for the benefit of your child.

Go Orioles! Oriole Pride!!