



Keys to a Successful Family-School Partnership

"I-statements" for Parents
(based on LJA's TRIBES Agreements)

Demonstrate Mutual Respect (and Trust)

- I treat others with the same respect that I would like to have, and expect the same from them.
- I assume that everyone is doing their personal and professional best to complete good work for the sake of students, so I focus on problems and processes, not on people.
- If I have a concern, I follow the "chain of authority" by addressing my concerns to the most appropriate person.
- I am positive with my child about the school and its personnel, realizing that s/he will mirror my thoughts and attitudes, directly affecting her/his educational progress.

Demonstrate Attentive Listening

- I seek first to understand: listening actively and asking questions to seek clarity rather than leading out with strong declarative statements.
- I maintain an open mind, asking myself whether I have all the facts before drawing any firm conclusions.
- I take the time to try to understand the perspectives of others, realizing the needs and concerns of other students and parents are varied and not always the same as my own.
- I keep myself informed about school communications, events, and developments.

Demonstrate Appreciation

- I work on building strong personal relationships and getting to know the various staff members who work with my child.
- I engage in "positive storytelling" in order to help build a positive community where people want to be.
- I join in celebrating successes and letting people know when they have done a good job.
- I champion a caring, supportive, safe environment free of highly critical judgments.

Uphold Your Own and Others' Right to Participate/Right to Pass

- I engage in open dialogue, asking tough questions when necessary, always in a respectful manner.
- I communicate only what I know to be true rather than what I have heard to be true or suspect might be true.
- I support the school in the best way I am able (e.g. volunteering, promoting events, showing empathy and moral support).
- I respect the right of others to privacy and confidentiality.