



November

Working with the School

Support the school and the teachers

Children's attitudes about education and school are, to a great extent, determined by what their parents say and do. Students need to know that parents support the teachers and the administrators at school. Students also need to know that parents consider education to be a top priority.

Parents can best convey their interest in education and support their child's school by doing the following:

1. Insist that your child be in school, on time, every day. Please review the attendance policy in the student handbook on our website - <http://zhs.zps.org/files/2016/10/Handbook-2016-2017-1.pdf>
2. Expect your child to work up to his/her potential.
3. Show an interest in what your child is studying.
4. Talk about the importance of getting a good education.
5. Expect your child to follow the school rules.
6. Attend all open houses and parent-teacher conferences.
7. Show consistent interest in your child's academic progress.

Make the most of parent-teacher conferences

Parent-teacher conferences provide an excellent opportunity for parents to both give and receive information. Teachers are able to provide information on how a student is performing in a specific class, and parents can share information that will help teachers better understand their child. This shared information can be used to determine what both parties can do to enhance a student's classroom experience and performance. Listed below are ten parent-teacher conference discussion topics, along with questions to ask. Focusing on these discussion topics and questions will help ensure that your parent-teacher conferences are meaningful and productive.

1. Homework – Is my child's homework completed thoroughly, accurately, and on time?
2. Class Participation – Does my child ask questions, volunteer answers, and participate in class discussions?
3. Organization – Does my child seem organized? Does he/she come to class prepared?
4. Academic Success – How is my child doing in the class? Is my child working up to his/her potential?
5. Classroom Time Management – Does my child use class time wisely?
6. Attendance and Punctuality – Is my child in class every day? Does he/she come to class on time?
7. Focus – Does my child pay attention in class?
8. Social Adjustment – Is my child respectful and courteous to teachers and classmates? Does my child appear to get along well with the other students?
9. Strengths and Weaknesses – What is my child good at doing? What does he/she need to work on?
10. Additional Comments – Do you have any advice or suggestions for me or for my child?

Parent-teacher conferences this year will be held on Monday, November 7 from 4-7 p.m., Wednesday, November 9 from 2-5 p.m., and Thursday, November 10 from 2-8 p.m.

Before you go to parent-teacher conferences, make a list of the information you want to share, along with any questions or concerns you may have. Also, talk to your child to see if there is anything that he/she would like

you to talk to the teacher about. If you are receiving conflicting information from your child and a teacher, you may want to take your child to the conference with you, so that you can meet with the teacher together.

Communicate with your school

In order to work with students effectively, schools need to be aware of situations or circumstances that could affect a student's attitude or performance. If your child has a health problem, a special need, or if there's a death or divorce in the family, contact your child's principal or counselor and explain the situation.

Work with the school to resolve problems

If your child complains about a class or a teacher, listen closely, and try to objectively determine what is going on. While doing so, please remember that part of your child's education is to learn how to succeed in subjects that he/she may not particularly enjoy. Also, remember that it's important for high school students to learn how to adapt to different teachers, expectations, and teaching styles.

If there is a problem with a class or teacher, first try to help your child figure out how to deal with the situation on his/her own. If you feel that you need to intervene, contact the teacher and discuss your concerns with that teacher. If there continues to be a problem, talk to a school administrator.

*Information taken from "High School Parent Guidebook"

Get to Know The High School Counselor

School counselors provide a variety of services to both students and parents. Students should be sure to make the most of their counselor's help.

Why Should Students Get to Know Their Counselor?

School counselors play a big role in helping with the college/career planning process. A counselor can:

- Track a student's graduation progress.
- Provide resources to help students determine abilities and interests in future educational and occupational choices.
- Make sure students select the right courses and are on the appropriate track for the kind of post-secondary education and occupation(s) they would like to pursue.
- Clarify and understand terminology and opportunities that students will encounter while planning for life after high school.
- Help in selecting and registering for appropriate college admissions tests, and then explain the results of these tests.
- Encourage participation in college fairs and financial aid workshops.
- Provide information on different schools (entrance requirements, curricular offerings, costs, etc.) and occupations.
- Encourage college campus visits and explain the steps to schedule one.
- Teach about the college admissions process.
- Help create a post-high school planning timeline, so important deadlines associated with the admissions process won't be missed.
- Write letters of recommendation.
- Give information about financial aid, such as scholarships, grants, and student loans.
- Describe the athletic eligibility process for college-bound athletes.
- Help find assistance in filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- Help prepare for the transition to college.

- Provide tips for creating resumes and preparing for job interviews.

How Can Students Get to Know Their Counselor?

Because a school counselor can play such a critical role in the post-high school planning process, it is important that the students get to know him/her. Students should be sure to:

Visit the school counselor early. Students will begin developing a relationship with their counselor during the freshman year of high school. This will give the counselor sufficient time to get to know both student and family.

Visit the counselor often. Students will visit with their counselor multiple times each year to review educational goals, track progress, and plan for the future. Students are more than welcome, and encouraged, to meet with their counselor for any other questions or concerns that they have. One can set up an appointment by sending his/her counselor an e-mail.

Share information with their counselor. In order for a counselor to be able to assist students to the best of his/her ability and provide quality recommendations when the time comes, he/she needs to know as much about the students as possible. Students should: provide him/her with a list of extracurricular activities, jobs, volunteer experiences, etc.; let him/her know what kind of occupation they are thinking of pursuing; give him/her a list of schools that are of interest.

*Information adapted from ecampustours.com.