

Especially for Parents

A.A.S.D. Elementary Schools

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND - PARENT NEWSLETTER

(Edition #28)

To view back editions, go to www.aasdcat.com/aasd
Scroll down and click on "AASD NCLB Web Site"; then "AASD NCLB Newsletters"

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-Teacher conferences will be scheduled for you this month. This is an excellent opportunity for you to get involved with your child's school and teacher.

Many teachers say that they don't often receive information from parents about problems at home. Many parents say that they don't know what the school expects from their children - or from them. Sharing information is essential and both teachers and parents are responsible for making it happen.



How do I get the most out of my conference?

- Be prepared to listen as well as to talk.
- It helps to write out questions beforehand. Jot down what you want to tell the teacher.
- Ask for an explanation if you don't understand something.
- Teachers will offer specific details about your child's work and progress.
- Provide information about your child that could affect his/her academic progress, such as special talents/skills, hobbies, family situations/events, etc.
- Ask about specific ways to help your child at home. Try to have an open mind.
- At home, think about what the teacher has said and then follow up.

Source: U.S. Department of Education, www.ed.gov

TIPS FOR PARENTS

(Source: U.S. Department of Education, *The Achiever*, September 2006)

As their child's first teacher, parents play a critical role in children's learning. According to a U.S. Department of Education study, when teachers reported high levels of parent support, two-year growth rates for student test scores were much higher than when parent support was at a low level. Here are some tips to help you support your child:

- **Speak with your child about school.** Talk to your child about the importance of school. Ask him/her about teachers, assignments, friends and activities.
- **Establish a line of communication with school staff.** Keep in touch with teachers and guidance counselors by scheduling periodic meetings or corresponding regularly to discuss academic expectations and your child's progress in meeting those expectations.
- **Examine the school's report card.** All schools are required to provide ongoing information on student progress.
- **Help with homework.** Review assignments so that you will know in which subjects your child is excelling, needs help or lacks enthusiasm for what is being taught.
- **Attend school functions.** Participate in events such as open house and parent-teacher conferences. Find out about volunteer opportunities and how you can become involved in school improvement efforts.

For additional information about NCLB, try the following websites: nclb.gov or www.pde.state.pa.us