

Tips for Parents from the Counseling Department:

The importance of parent involvement in working with your child's teachers is crucial during the high school years. Some parents monitor closely, and others take the approach of giving more responsibility to their son or daughter. To understand the connection of high school to home, and vice versus, you need to know that your child will have six different teachers for six different classes including TAP. We think of the 3 C's when we think of our partnership, yours and ours with your child's teachers.

Here is what the 3 C's stand for:

The first C stands for Confidence: Have confidence in the process. Trust that when you contact your child's teacher, a resolution to the concern and /or problem will be worked out to the betterment of all involved, especially for your child. As easy as it is to remember the past, try to stay focused on the 'here and now' with the goal of moving forward in a spirit of resolution.

The second C stands for Commitment: Make a decision to stay involved and be committed. Remember that your child will be telling you about *Information Nights, Back to School night, Performances*, etc. Research shows that students whose parents stay involved, and attend these functions fare better than those who don't. Your child's teachers appreciate seeing you too, so be proud of that!

The third C stands for Communication: By the second or third day of school, your child will bring home a **Classroom Management** plan for each class he/she is enrolled in. Make sure you read the entire plan. Return if requested, the signature page, but keep the plans in a place at home where you can easily access them during the semester/year as a reference. In addition, you will know from the plan for example, how to reach the teacher, what the email address is, which being a technology school tends to be the prefer method of contact; the course objectives, the grading policies, whether the teacher is using Edline for grade updates, and assignments, etc. And when your child does bring home a matter and/or concern that happened in the classroom, please again have confidence in the process, and contact the teacher first before calling our office, or the main office to address the issue. Then, hopefully after speaking with the teacher, the problem ceases to be one. If not, call the teacher again, and say to the effect: "I hope you remember that we addressed this before, and I was just calling to remind you of what we agreed on. Is there something I missed or?" One to one conferences are typically set up between the teacher and parent, and yes, it is expected that your child should be present. If you would like a conference with all of your child's teachers, please contact your child's counselor to do so. Ms. Bischoff A – GL, Ms. Erickson GO-N, Ms. Davis O – Z.

Thank you for reading the *Tips for Parents* and here's to hoping for a great school year for you and your child!