



The Family Learning Connection

Uniting Families, Educators, & the Community

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parents with children attending Title I schools should know that the upcoming Parent-Teacher Conferences will be a chance to discuss the School-Parent Compact, which outlines shared responsibilities for student success. Your participation shapes how schools and families work together to support your child's educational success. At the meeting, you will review your child's progress, set academic goals, and discuss strategies for reinforcing learning at home. Contact your school for more information. For some tips, visit: <http://r16.us/ptconferencetips>



LEARN WITH US

Join us October 16-18 in Houston, Texas for the 2024 Parent and Family Engagement Statewide Conference, featuring sessions on law, building educator and family knowledge, school safety and wellness, and more. Enhance your skills and knowledge on topics like social and emotional strategies, homelessness, effective communication, career and college readiness, technology, English learners, and attendance. For more information on how to use funds to attend, visit: pfetexas.net/pfeconference.



Follow for more great information:



FALL EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Parents of middle school and high school students can expect a busy and exciting fall season filled with a variety of extracurricular activities such as sports, band, choir, UIL competitions, and FFA events. Students will develop their skills and teamwork through regular practice sessions, rehearsals, and meetings, which typically take place after school. Parents should be prepared for travel to away events and for opportunities to support their children through attendance, volunteering, and providing snacks or refreshments. It's also important to stay informed about schedules, school policies, and any required paperwork or fees related to these activities. For more information on finding a balance with afterschool activities, visit: <https://r16.us/balancetips>



PARENT-TEACHER COMMUNICATION

Parents can get to know their children's teachers by attending open house events and parent-teacher conferences where they can have one-on-one discussions about their child's progress and classroom dynamics. Volunteering for classroom activities or school events provides another chance for parents to interact with teachers. Also, parents can schedule meetings or communicate regularly through emails and school portals to stay updated on their child's education and build a strong relationship with their teachers. This consistent communication helps create a collaborative environment focused on the student's success. For more tips, visit: <https://r16.us/Communicationtips>

Did you know?

Halloween is the second-largest holiday in the United States, with Americans spending over \$2.6 billion on candy alone each year. This makes it a prime time to teach children about moderation and healthy snacking. For more tips on Halloween candy and thoughtful eating, visit: <http://r16.us/halloweentips>.



Follow for more great information:



PROMISING PRACTICES AROUND THE STATE

The Promising Practices Award recognizes schools and groups of schools that have demonstrated great efforts in enhancing parent, family, and community engagement. This award aims to highlight schools or districts that actively involve stakeholders in the planning, execution, and evaluation of programs or events that foster a collaborative learning environment. This year the following schools and/or districts were selected for this award, and they will present on their award winning practices at the 2024 PFE Conference in Houston, Texas on October 16-18:

ALDINE ISD

The Office of Family and Community Engagement saw the need to share COVID-19 information with families, so they started virtual sessions to make sure everyone stayed informed.

As things got better, they found that many parents didn't know how to get involved in their children's education. In October 2021, they started the Family and Community University (FCUniversity).

FCUniversity focuses on "Empowering Families to Look Forward." Parents gained new skills, some even got jobs, and a few became U.S. citizens.

SPRING FOREST MIDDLE SCHOOL

Transitioning to high school is a big change for students and their families. To help with this, Spring Forest Middle School created the "High School Ready" workshops. These workshops prepare families for the challenges of high school, making the transition smoother and less stressful.

The "High School Ready" program includes a series of workshops featuring high school principals, counselors, and club leaders.

They provide parents with important information on academics, social adjustments, and extracurricular activities. With up to eight workshops each year, the program has high attendance and positive feedback, showing it meets a real need. This program helps families feel ready and confident as they move into the high school years.

LUFKIN ISD

To meet the diverse needs of their families, Lufkin ISD developed a multi-tiered approach based on Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, providing universal, targeted, and intensive support. Planning is done with families, community partners, and district staff. Events include Parent Cafe Family Chats, Discover with Me Math activities, and the FIT (Family Instructional Time) program. GED, ESL, and Citizenship classes are coordinated with the Angelina College Adult Learning Center. Carrying out the events involves organizing monthly activities based on family and community feedback.

Parents, site coordinators, district personnel, and community partners review activities monthly, and an end-of-year meeting helps plan for the next year.

ROCKDALE ISD

The Winter Wonderland event is a special annual celebration organized by Rockdale ISD to get families more involved.

At Winter Wonderland, parents get important information about family engagement programs and resources. For younger students (Pre-K to 5th grade), there are fun make-and-take winter-themed activities that help them learn while having fun. Older students (6th to 12th grade) can enjoy a winter-themed carnival, which also collects canned goods for their Christmas Round-Up family support program. This event brings their community together, making it a festive time that supports families and strengthens community bonds.

Follow for more great information:

