

# It Starts at Home

## How parents can get involved

Parents often want to get involved in their children's schooling, but they don't know where to begin. It is important to keep in mind that parents can be engaged at many different levels. Simple activities like reading a book together, helping with homework, and emphasizing the importance of school and academic success can and does make a difference! This section offers some suggestions that school staff can share with parents on how they can get involved.

### *How parents can get involved*

- Take your child to school on the first day of the school year.
- Let your child know school is important. Set up a quiet place for your child to work at home. Ask your child questions about the day's homework.
- Show your child that you are well informed about their school. Read everything that is sent home from school. This includes report cards, homework assignments, school lunch plans, and vacation and bus schedules.
- Get to know your child's teachers and school principal by attending school meetings and parent-teacher conferences.
- Ask for copies of school policies (such as attendance and discipline policies). Ask questions if there is something you do not understand.
- Volunteer to help with school activities. Attend sports events, assist with fundraisers, or volunteer to work in the school office.
- Visit your child's classroom when class is in session, not just at parent-teacher conferences. Set this up in advance with the school office and the teacher.
- Talk to other parents. If there is a parent organization, join it. Think about starting a parent organization if there isn't one currently at the school. You can start by finding two or three other parents who are interested.
- Encourage your child to read at home. Visit local libraries, school libraries, or book fairs to pick out books together. Talk together about the books you choose.
- Invite people who care for your child to participate in school activities. It is important for step-parents, grandparents, and other adults who care for a child to be involved in the child's education.

Your actions, not just your words, make an impression that will last a lifetime!