



HOOVER SCHOOL COMMUNITY INFORMATION NETWORK (HSCIN)

September 2008

With Parent-Teacher Conferences in the near future, this month's tip is designed to help families prepare for the conference to make it useful for both families and teachers.

If you have not already, we encourage you to post your PTO/PTA/PTSO Board member's names on your school's web site as soon as possible, with contact information if possible. Oftentimes, new families don't know who to ask for this information and by being out front with it, you can help families feel more welcome.

Thank you for all you do to support our Hoover school community!

Parent Teacher Conferences will be coming up soon!

Don't miss your child's parent-teacher conference. This is a great chance to find out how well your child is doing in school and if your child needs help in any way, either at home or at school. Even if things are going great, make the time to attend this conference. You will learn something new about your child.

Prepare for the conference by talking with your child. The conference will be more productive if you have taken some time to talk with your child about how his school year is going so far. Get specific. Ask detailed questions: How comfortable are you in class? Is your teacher teaching in a way you understand? Are you behaving yourself in class? Are other children behaving themselves? Is homework a problem?

Know what your child's progress report tells you. If your child's progress report doesn't reflect the high marks you think it should, discuss that with your child's teachers. You know your child's potential better than most. Remember that these teachers are just now getting to know your child. If you believe the grades your child is earning aren't at his potential, share that with your child's teacher.

Be open to what your child's teachers tell you. Try not to get defensive if your child's teacher tells you things you don't expect. If you believe your child's teacher is painting an inaccurate picture of your child, speak up and let her know, but in a respectful way. It is only through open and honest communication that parents and teachers can form relationships that result in a great partnership that best benefits your child.

Be open with your child's teacher. Teachers oftentimes are teaching anywhere from 20 to 125 children (or more) each year. Help your child's teachers personalize your child by being open with your child's strengths as well as your child's weaknesses.

Ask for their help. Ask your child's teacher to help you make this the best school year ever for your child. Very few teachers ever refuse a request for help. Their helpful nature is probably what got them into teaching in the first place!

Fact of the Month

Family participation in education was twice as predictive of students' academic success as family socioeconomic status. (Source: Walberg (1984) in his review of 29 studies of school-parent programs.)