

Alexander Elementary

Parents Make A Difference!



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A note from:

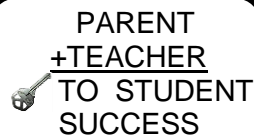
Mr. Wade

Elementary Principal

On February 20 and 22 you are invited to attend parent-teacher conferences. It is a great way to find out more about what your child will be learning and how they are currently performing in school. You can share things about your child with the teacher. You can also learn things that will help your child have a successful remaining school year.

Before your conference, jot down the things you want to know. Then you'll be sure to get the answers you need.

Here are a few suggestions to help get you started thinking:



- *How can I work with you? Teachers always need help. If you can't come to school, maybe you can help from home.
- *What can we do at home? Let the teacher know you'll support what goes on at school.
- *What will my child be expected to learn for the remainder of the year? If this is the semester your child has to learn countries and their capitals, you might want to buy a big world map.
- *What is your policy on homework? Knowing there's always homework on Tuesday will help if your child says there isn't anything due the next day.
- *How will you measure my child's progress? Once you know how much those weekly math quizzes count, you'll probably make sure your child studies.

(See "Conferences" on back, column 1)



No School Friday, February 2- Professional Development for Staff.

Fifth Grade Field Trip- Thursday, February 8 to Pitsco and PSU.

Rise and Shine Assembly- Monday, February 12.

Progress Reports- Tuesday, February 13.

Valentine's Day- Wednesday, February 14.

Parent-Teacher Conferences- Tuesday, February 20 and Thursday, February 22 from 3:30PM to 6:30 PM.

No School- Friday, February 23.

Red Wheel Fundraiser Begins- Monday, February 26. Ends March 9. Delivery March 29

Spring Pictures- Tuesday, February 27.

End of 3rd Quarter- Friday, March 2.

Grade Cards Out- Tuesday, March 6.

PK Field Trip- Thursday, March 8 to Jenks Aquarium.

Kindergarten Field Trip- Friday, March 9 to Springfield Science Museum.

Second Grade Field Trip- Thursday, March 15 to Fantastic Caverns.

Spring Break- March 19 – 23.

AR Reward Trips- Victory Gym, Joplin
3rd, 4th and 5th Grades- March 28
K, 1st and 2nd Grades- March 29

No School- Friday, March 30 (Good Friday)

“Conferences” continued...

*When and for what reasons should I contact the school? Keeping the lines of communication open will help your child have a better year.

*What’s the best way to get in touch with you? Some teachers love e-mail or text messages. Others will let you call them at home. Find out what will work best.



Talk to your child about showing respect for teachers and classmates

Respectful behavior is just as important at school as it is at home. When students have respect for teachers and classmates, they help create the positive academic environment all children need to be successful.

Encourage your child to:

Address the teacher by name. Simply saying “Good morning, Mrs. Jones” is an easy way to show respect.

Be courteous. She should say please and thank you to her teacher and her classmates.

Raise her hand. When she waits to be called on, she demonstrates self-control and respect for others.

Do what’s expected. Everyone in school has a job to do. If the teacher doesn’t plan any lessons, no one can learn anything. If students don’t do their jobs--completing homework, listening to the teacher—it makes it more difficult to learn.

Listen to the teacher’s comments. Teachers want students to learn and to succeed. That means they have to point out mistakes. Your child will do much better in school if she can recognize and accept constructive feedback.



Make Valentine Animals for a Fun February Family Activity

Here’s a fun way to boost your child’s creativity. It could also be a good way to get those school Valentine’s cards made.

Have your child cut out paper hearts of different sizes. (You may need to cut the hearts if your child is too young.) Have some markers, glue, yarn, buttons and other things to use for trim on hand.

Now ask your child to make animals from these heart shapes. A bunny face can be made from three hearts. One heart is the ears. An upside-down heart makes the face. A small heart-shaped sticker can make the nose. Get creative. See how many different animals you can create from this simple shape (examples: butterfly, mouse, etc.)

Write captions, too. (“Have a Hoppy Day” would work for the bunny.) You might send these creatures to other family members. You could take them to a nursing home or hospital.

Happy Valentine's Day!



Respect for ourselves guides our morals, respect for others guides our manners.

Laurence Sterne

