

Sample Letter to the Editor

Parent Involvement – Back to School

School has started and it is time for parents, families, and community members to start thinking about their personal involvement in their child's education.

Study after study clearly indicates that when parents and families are involved, students achieve at higher levels, have better attendance, and exhibit a positive attitude toward school. To affect positive change, parents must find time to participate in their children's education, while schools must provide the support and resources necessary for them to be involved.

Don't know where to start? Try these tips:

Volunteer: Find manageable ways you can enrich the learning environment at your child's school by contributing your knowledge and skills and providing services and support to students and teachers.

Support learning at home: Families can help their children develop good study habits, supervise their homework, monitor TV viewing and after-school activities, supervise regular bedtimes, and maintain good school attendance. Also, teach respect, discipline, and a love of learning to your child.

Communicate: Parents and schools should communicate regularly about information important to the student's success through newsletters, conferences, scheduled visits, and voice mail and e-mail messages.

Advocate. Parents need to be proactive in assuring that their child is being treated appropriately, and is receiving all the help they need to succeed. Ask questions and expect answers.

Support school activities: Participate in the activities sponsored by your school and PTA. Your presence and participation will show your child that you care.

Join your school's PTA: Parents, teachers and administrators, working together through the PTA, can make remarkable things happen for children, schools, and the community.

For more information on effective parent involvement, visit these Web sites: Washington State PTA (www.wastatepta.org), National PTA (www.pta.org) and National Coalition for Parent Involvement in Education (www.ncpie.org).

_____ is mother/father to (add children and schools) and _____
(position) of the _____ PTA.