

Home-School Communication

Philosophy

Communication between home and school fosters an environment that supports the development of life-long, independent learners. We believe that, as young adults, our students assume primary responsibility to account for their actions, to communicate regularly with their teachers, and to seek out school personnel directly for assistance and problem resolution.

As students assume more responsibility for themselves, we believe that they can and should be included in communications and meetings, increasing their commitment to their own progress as independent learners and securing their investment in the outcomes of such collaborations.

Together we share the challenge of fostering this growth in independence as students move through their time at Newton North. We recognize this can sometimes be a difficult process - a time when young adults may struggle to find this independence, and, to that end, there are many adults in the building to help them.

Support

The following adults are available to assist your child at school: Teachers, school counselors, deans, coaches, and after-school activity advisors special education liaisons (if applicable).

Sharing of information between home and school develops this supportive relationship further by celebrating successes, discussing areas of need, and communicating information about other situations (in and out of school) which may impact a student's learning.

Guidelines

1. Students benefit when faculty, staff and parents communicate respectfully and effectively.
2. Teachers convey their preferred communication form at the start of courses (email or phone).
3. Parents and school staff acknowledge the volume of information that circulates each day and are respectful of time demands.

4. Parents and school staff act respectfully at meetings and forums and are considerate of speakers in asking questions and making comments.
5. Specific concerns should be addressed to the classroom teacher first.
6. To respect everyone's time and commitments, communication responses within two business days are recommended.
7. Beyond the regular school communications, families of students who need additional support may contact a classroom teacher.
8. Concerns that cannot be resolved within two or three communication exchanges with the classroom teacher may warrant additional consultation, possibly involving department chairs or deans in more complex situations.
9. When these exchanges do not lead to quick resolution of concerns, families and school personnel may desire phone or in-person meetings for further discussion.

Regular School Communication

The following scheduled meetings and communications occur regularly:

Back-to-School Night (September)

Report Cards (November, January, April & June) available through Skyward Family Access (see access info on next page)

Parent Conferences (December)

Emails from Deans & Principal

Emails and website updates from PTSO School website

Special Education documents and meetings

Newtonite School Newspaper – available on-line

Education Team Conferences

Educational Team Conferences (ETCs) are available for students who are struggling due to academic and/or emotional difficulties. Meetings include the student, guardian(s), counselor, teachers, and, at times, dean in order to share information, express specific concerns, and create an action plan for support. Anyone may request an ETC; scheduling is handled by the counselor and guardian(s), with notification generated by the house secretary.