

HOW CAN PARENTS AND SCHOOL WORK TOGETHER?



Home and school are the two major influences in the lives of children. It is best for children when home and school have a relationship of understanding and a cooperative spirit that establishes mutual respect and trust. Together we share in the well being and educational growth of the children.

Home

Your interest in your child helps his/her school life be successful. It is helpful when your child understands that you support his/her performance at school. Several ways to do this are:

- * Encourage your children to do their best without “pushing” them into tasks or areas beyond their energy, ability, and interest.
- * Remember all children are different in their abilities, talents, and personalities.
- * Guide your children to do their work with diligence, imagination, and excellence.
- * Talk with your child’s teachers about him or her; discuss the difficulties and misunderstandings that are ever present in the growing up process.
- * Provide home experiences that closely relate to school work, such as reading to and with children, engaging in hobbies and projects, and just talking with your children.
- * Schedule and attend Parent-Teacher Conferences.
- * Help your children develop a daily schedule for homework, free time, and home responsibilities.



Home and School

- * Children are learning all the time, at home, at school, on the playground, on the street, every waking moment. Children learn many different things from many different people.
- * It helps if expectations are consistent at home and school. The home and school should know and trust each other and try to plan together for each child’s benefit.
- * High expectations for appropriate behavior is essential for learning to take place.
- * Failure is hard on children. It’s important to help children to do their best to be successful and yet to learn from their mistakes when they are not successful. Helping children accept failure and to review how they will do things differently to be successful in the future can be a valuable learning experience.
- * Children should learn to do a job willingly, efficiently, neatly, and promptly.
- * Children should develop good health and safety habits.
- * Children should learn to respect themselves and others.
- * Children should develop an understanding of democracy and a citizen’s responsibility in democracy.
- * The best schools are those in which parents and teachers work together as partners so that the best learning possible may happen.

Field Trips

Field trips require a great deal of preparation on the part of the staff. The trip must coordinate with the classroom curriculum and have educational value. It is very difficult to have a successful field trip without parental support. First, it is important that you ensure your child's opportunity for a field trip by signing and returning the permission slip that will be sent home to you with your child prior to each field trip. Always read field trip permission slips carefully. If your child needs specific clothing or lunch items, those will be outlined in the permission slip.

Second, field trips are successful only with a good number of chaperones. Please, if you have free time to volunteer to chaperone a field trip, your help is greatly appreciated.

Since there is a no smoking policy at the school, it has been extended to field trips. We ask that parents who smoke not do so when they chaperone.

No Franklin Central School student will be denied participation in a field trip due to an inability to pay the necessary fee involved. Please speak with the principal if you are concerned about field trip expenses.

Volunteer Background Check

Background checks are required to chaperone any field trip, coach, volunteer in the classroom, as is required in all of the elementary schools in the Supervisory Union. All volunteers need to complete the forms for a background check to be completed by Central Office administration in order to volunteer in the school, and/or chaperone any field trip. Last year we added a "Release for Subscription Service" page with the volunteer background packet. If you have filled out this form including the student information and graduation date, and were approved, you do not have to fill out the paperwork again. The service will automatically check each year until the date you supplied. On that date your name will be removed from the list. If you have not completed the forms for the background check, please fill out this paperwork as soon as possible and return it to the school office. **Only people who have completed the forms and been approved will be able to volunteer in the school, chaperone field trips, etc.** We want to make sure we still have as much participation as we always have had so we are sending two sets of forms home but feel free to ask for more forms for extended family/friends who you know may want to volunteer to chaperone any trips/volunteer at school. We don't want to have a situation where someone wants to volunteer but hasn't completed the necessary paperwork. Thank you in advance for your cooperation!



Homework



Homework is a child's work, not parents' work. It helps to develop responsibility and is a good way to reinforce skills and content taught during the day. There are some ways you can help your child be successful with homework.

1. Show a strong interest in your child's work; have a conversation about his/her day.
2. If there is something your child doesn't understand, help him/her figure it out.
3. Take a look at your child's work: is it neat and complete?
4. Help your child set up a regular time for homework.
5. It is important for the teacher to know if your child is having problems during homework. If you think your child needs some help, be sure the teacher is aware of it.

Homework is one way of helping children learn. It gives them a chance to work on their own. It's also a way for the teacher to understand your child's progress and for you to know what your child is studying.

Please talk to your children about their school work. Ensure that they are having no difficulty with it and are keeping up. It is important for you to be involved.



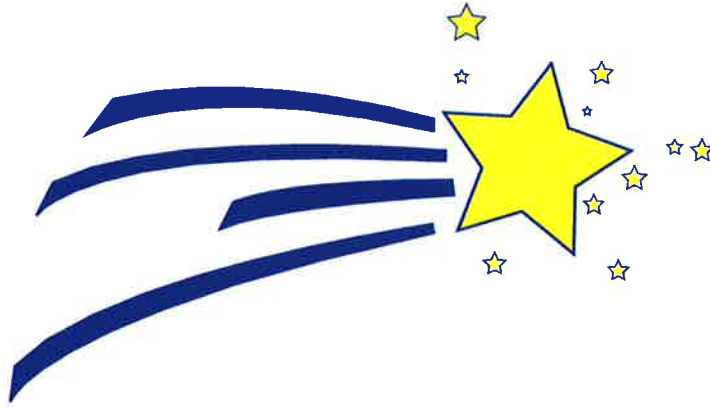
PTO (Parent Teacher Organization)

Franklin Central School has a very active and supportive “PTO.” We function on the premise that every parent, teacher, staff and community member is part of the organization. We strive to include all special supports for the children both in the classrooms and for the school population as a whole outside the classroom. The benefits that come from the PTO include a variety of enrichment activities for our students and community. PTO is looking for volunteers to help with our fundraisers as well as helping with different activities at school such as: help with book fairs, sleigh rides, cookie dough, safety fun, etc.

The following list includes many of the events that PTO supports and has supported in the past:

- R.I.F.** (Reading is Fundamental) - book giveaways
- Four Winds** - Nature Program
- Crossroads** - After school program
- Room Mothers** -help organize special events/parties within the classrooms
- Holiday Parties** - focusing on giving back to the community
- Wagon/Sleigh Rides** - to sing with the elderly and other community members
- Safety Fun Party** - provides a trick or treating alternative
- Red Ribbon Week** - national anti-drug/alcohol week
- Seniors’ Dinner** - to enhance intergenerational relationships
- Spirit Week Celebration**
- Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week** - providing recognition of our leaders
- Bus fare** for end of the year **class trips**
- Special extras such as donations for **sports equipment**
- End of the year **celebrations** - to celebrate the success of each year
- Presentations including, **Authors’ visits, Vermont Institute of Natural Science, The Hampstead Stage Company, and The Vermont Symphony Orchestra**

The PTO is able to fund or help fund all of these wonderful things for our school and community with one main fundraiser, our cookie dough sale. We have gotten support from, and also supported, organizations such as Building Bright Futures, Modern Woodmen, RIF, The Haston Library, and the After-School program.



Parent - Teacher Conferences

We will have parent/teacher conferences in the fall and the spring. Times will be arranged by parents calling school to make an appointment.

The first set of conferences will be scheduled for on or around November 10, 2017. The spring conferences are scheduled to take place on or around March 30, 2018. The focus of parent conferences is to discuss each student's learning and progress during the year. Report cards will be given and reviewed with parents at parent conferences.

Any time you would like to speak to your child's teacher(s) about an issue or your child's progress, to share information, or ask a question about your child, feel free to get in touch and arrange a conference. Teachers and administration want to work with you to make school a place where the best learning can take place.



Franklin Home and School Newsletter

Twice a month the school produces a large newsletter that will inform you of happenings in the classrooms, the school, student work and illustrations, and important school meetings. We also attach flyers to our newsletter notifying you of area events and opportunities. We hope that you will take the time to read the newsletter. It is an important tool for communicating with parents. The dates when the newsletters go home are highlighted on the school calendar. The newsletter is also available on our website (www.fnwsu.org/fcs).