Using Technology to Increase Parent Involvement
Tweets are encouraged

@SWCED1 @DrBruceEllis #communication

#EdTech #ASL #DeafEducation

#TxEd #ParentEd #ParentInvolvement
5 tips for better communication
Communicate often and in various forms – but be purposeful.
Make every day an open house by sharing photos and videos of class activities.
Find out your parents’ skills and use them as experts in your classroom.
Lead with good news – it may be the only good news about their child they’ve heard in a long time.
Let parents know how they can help – be specific.
ClassDojo

- [https://www.classdojo.com](https://www.classdojo.com)
- Allows teacher to emphasize behavioral expectations by easily making note of desired (and undesired) behaviors in the classroom
- Parents and students can view progress at any time
- Students’ parents get parent login to check up on their child at their convenience
- Teacher can easily message all parents at once
- Teacher can share photos and videos
- Web, Android, iOS
Remind

- [http://www.remind.com](http://www.remind.com)
- Easily send personalized communication to all classes, small groups, and/or individuals
- Hides contact information
- Attach photos, videos, voice clips, and files to any message
- Generates unique code for each class for students and parents to use to join
Talking Points

• [https://app.talkingpts.org](https://app.talkingpts.org)
• Create classes and invite students and parents to join
• Easily organizes text messaging and responses
• Ability to schedule posts
• Translates between 20 languages
• Lots of templates to make messages more meaningful and engage parents
Google Hangouts

- [http://hangouts.google.com](http://hangouts.google.com)
- Great for one-way and two-way communication
- Google Apps for Education users can have up to 25 people join via video feed (only most active 10 will show)
- Consider using the Sign Language Interpreter app to facilitate who can sign and who can interpret
- Can also create Hangouts via Google Calendar invite
Office Mix (for Video Newsletters)

- [http://mix.office.com](http://mix.office.com)
- Integrates with PowerPoint
- Records voice, video and digital ink
- Captures webcam for picture-in-picture video
- Save your recording as a video to share
- Can playback on any device
- Easily create video newsletter. Save video to your Google Drive (or other cloud storage) and share link with parents.
Sample Video Newsletter Layout

Welcome to School

Dr. Ellis’s Weekly Newsletter Video
@DrBruceEllis | bellis@tcea.org

Download PowerPoint template at https://goo.gl/JDNrHy

Your webcam video will appear in the top right corner. You can resize and move it if needed prior to saving as a final video.
Social Media

- Check with district Acceptable Use Policy for guidelines
- Remember to follow FERPA rules with student information

Instagram
http://www.instagram.com
Communicate by sharing photos

Twitter
http://twitter.com
Share text, photos, and videos using hashtags (140 character limit)

Facebook
http://facebook.com
Share text, photos, and videos
Blogging Sites

- Blogging is a great one-way tool to communicate information that is pertinent to everyone.
- Consider how to make your information relevant so parents will return to your blog consistently.

Blogging Sites:

- Blogger: [http://www.blogger.com](http://www.blogger.com)
- Kidblog: [http://kidblog.org](http://kidblog.org)
- Edublogs: [http://edublogs.org](http://edublogs.org)
Resources

• Empowering Parents Through Technology  http://goo.gl/prfsfd
• The Positive Results of Parent Communication  http://goo.gl/CX1ESU
• Probing the Impact of Parent-Teacher Digital Communication  http://goo.gl/Ntdx5P
• Communicating with Parents: Strategies for Teachers  http://goo.gl/ZzxYC2
• Parent Communication: Using Social Media  http://goo.gl/dtjqJi
• Enhancing Parent-Teacher Communication Using Technology: A Reading Improvement Clinic Example  http://goo.gl/H0mw34
• Tips for Teachers on Communication with Students and Parents  https://goo.gl/a36V8a
Resources

• How using technology can keep parents in the loop [http://goo.gl/dMK3ku](http://goo.gl/dMK3ku)
• Using Technology to Encourage Parent-Teacher Communication [http://goo.gl/tCZcoA](http://goo.gl/tCZcoA)
• A Teacher's Guide to Communicating with Parents [https://goo.gl/XwgQ8h](https://goo.gl/XwgQ8h)
• 20 Tips for Developing Positive Relationships With Parents [http://googl/RlO20e](http://googl/RlO20e)
• Parent Engagement Rises as Schools Communicate with Tech Tools [http://goo.gl/SxWvaO](http://goo.gl/SxWvaO)
Resources

• Tips for Teachers on Communication with Students and Parents  
  https://goo.gl/a36V8a

• Sample Best Practices for Parent Involvement in Schools  
  http://goo.gl/iobD55

• Administrators Using Technology to Increase Family Engagement  
  http://goo.gl/mWk2mi

• The Underutilized Potential of Teacher-Parent Communication  
  https://goo.gl/XSjYPV