

# Ty Ankrom's Here's What I Think ...

Last week I wrote about the importance of including parents in the education process.



But how to do that?

With technology, there is no shortage of avenues but it's important to choose the right format for each parent. This may mean calling some parents on the phone and using text messages for another.

Something I've heard from teachers that I think is a great way to get a relationship started is by reaching out to parents before you have an issue with a student.

Some teachers will call a parent to let him or her know about the great job that the student did on a project.

If you are only contacting parents when something is wrong they will start to dread hearing from you.

But by letting parents know about good things that students are doing on a regular basis, it shows that you are invested in that student's learning and progress.

In a post on neaToday ([nea-today.org/2014/01/03/how-](http://nea-today.org/2014/01/03/how-)

[teachers-and-parents-work-together-for-student-success-2/](#)), a middle-school teacher explained about weekly notes that she sent home with students to parents.

The notes feature two good news items and one item that the student is working on.

The teacher said that the students enjoy reading the success stories to their parents and parents have responded with thank you notes.

Other teachers love the immediacy of texting with parents and parents like being able to connect with the teacher, too.

For connecting with a group, the Remind.com app is indispensable.

It requires your prospective recipients to join a class – Remind's name for a group – but once that is done, communicating with class members is as easy as sending a text. It can be sent from a smartphone or a computer.

Once the foundation has been



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set for encouraging parent interaction, when those times arise that you have a problem with a student, you are able to meet with a parent on better terms. A relationship exists in which the parent knows you and your dedication to your students.

But don't limit face-to-face conversations only to times when there is a problem. Consider having a "Ten Minutes with Teacher" night when parents can set up an appointment to come in and meet with you on any topic.

By letting parents know that you value their input, they are more likely to be active participants in the education process.

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