

Communicating With Your Child's New Classroom Teacher

The new school year has started and you and your student(s) are excited about a new year with a new teacher. Hopefully you have it as a goal for this year to stay in very close contact with the teacher, ensuring the very best for your student(s).

There are many ways to communicate with and gain information from your child's classroom teachers. I'd like to share those with you.

1. Email - All Tomball ISD staff members are provided with a personal email account, which they check frequently and respond to quickly. This is a great method of communicating with your teacher and often may get the quickest response. You can find your teacher's e-mail address on the Lakewood website at <http://les.tomballisd.net/directory/staff.aspx>. Please know that we ask our teachers not to use Text Messaging.
2. By Phone - Each teacher has her or his own classroom telephone with a specific extension. You are encouraged to call the main Lakewood phone number (281-357-3260) and ask to be transferred to your teacher's classroom. During instructional time, the front office staff will transfer you to the teacher's voice mail. Please know that Tomball ISD has asked that teachers not use their personal cell phones for school communications, but instead make use of the district telephone service.
3. Scheduled Face to Face Communication/Conferences - Face to face is always great. We love to meet with you. This is the most appropriate communication method if you have serious concerns or issues with a lot of details. As we want to give you our full attention, please plan to schedule a conference with a teacher ahead of time. Also, we want you to know in advance that we will be scheduling a conference with every parent around the end of September and first of October.
4. Teacher Websites - most of our teachers have their own webpage on which they provide class specific information. Check your teacher's beginning of the year information packet for how to access his or her website. (Please know that Tomball ISD has asked teachers to utilize the teacher web service for communicating with parents and to not use other social media sites such as Facebook.)

5. Teacher NewsFlash - When you check out your teacher's website, be sure to subscribe to his or her NewsFlash. Many teachers choose to use this notification system to alert their parents of items relevant to the entire class (for example; changes in schedule, upcoming projects, homework assignments, etc.).

6. Daily/Weekly Student Information Folders- Many teachers/grade levels communicate either daily or weekly through conduct folders. These folders are used to share information about the child's day with parents. Parents are encouraged to respond in writing on those folders. Teachers will read those folders and respond.

During parent orientation, the teachers will share with you the most efficient way(s) of communicating with them and getting information from them.

Regardless of the method you choose, we hope that you will stay in close communication with your child's teacher(s). We believe that parents and teachers working together provides the very best learning environment for our students.

Daron Aston
Principal
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