

FAQs

How do I establish a relationship with my child's teachers?

Call teachers immediately with concerns, questions, or just to check on progress. If you wonder about issues such as homework, test results, classroom expectations, or behavior, the teacher is the one who can answer you best. In most instances a brief phone call will lead to understanding and resolution. If necessary, meetings can be arranged with one or several teachers.

If I am worried or upset how do I keep the interaction positive and moving toward a good solution?

When problems arise everyone involved wants them solved as quickly as possible. Parents, teachers, and students all have the same goal. No one benefits from prolonged worry. With that in mind, it is best to begin the interaction with information gathering as the goal. Few, if any, issues are as simple as they might seem at first glance when seen through one set of eyes or when retold in an emotional context. It is always necessary to keep an open mind until all the facts as seen by all parties are articulated. Only after the facts, as seen by each party, are articulated is it time to define the issue and develop a strategy to deal with the issue. It is important to keep in mind that while some problems are quickly solved, others will require several exchanges, often with different school personnel. Others may require attention over many weeks.

My child says to stay out of it because things will only get worse if I'm involved. What should I do?

Issues do not resolve themselves. Some issues require a collaborative effort. You as a parent should carefully consider the information you have as you decide whether to become involved. In this context we have had parents call us to express a concern, but then ask us not to talk to the teacher and/or not to use their name due to a fear of retribution. We can only deal with issues when expressed in an open and forthright way. As mentioned above, we have the same goals and need to work as partners.

Who should I contact if I have concerns?

| Nature of Concern | Contact |
|---|---|
| Classroom— progress, grades, assignments, assessments | Teacher |
| Sports | Coach—> Athletic Director |
| Medical/health | School Nurse Teacher |
| Peer relations/bullying | School Psychologist/Social Worker/Principal |
| School discipline | Administrator |
| Classroom discipline/behavior management | Teacher |
| Scheduling | Guidance Counselor |
| Overall school performance | Principal |
| Overall district performance | Assistant Superintendent |
| Special Education programs and concerns | Teacher—> Principal—> Director of Special Education |
| Curriculum | Teacher—> Department Chairperson—> Principal—> Assistant Superintendent |
| Food Service | Aramark |



When should I call the Principal?

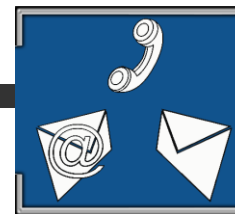
In general, the Principal should only get involved in resolving classroom issues after other avenues have been pursued. If an issue is brought to the Principal's attention he /she will always begin by fact finding, reviewing conversations that have been

SMITHFIELD PUBLIC
SCHOOLS
49 FARNUM PIKE
SMITHFIELD, RI 02917
401.231.6606



Communication Guide for Families

<http://www.smithfield-ps.org/>



Communication Guide

Ensuring a quality education, cultivated by ongoing communication and shared resources among parents, teachers, town organizations, and residents, is the responsibility of the entire community.

Communication between home and school is a high priority in the Smithfield Public Schools. Ongoing communication and shared resources among parents and teachers is a core value of the Smithfield Public Schools, and we, as parents, teachers, administrators, share the responsibility of modeling for our children the process of working together and of teaching the benefits of open and honest communication.

It is the responsibility of the Smithfield Public Schools to provide the opportunities for your child to acquire the skills, knowledge, and attitudes of mind needed to succeed and to act responsibly in a rapidly changing world. The faculty is also responsible for providing information about your child and his/her education, as well as sending home formal reports at periodic intervals. It is your responsibility to talk to your child so that you can know when to ask questions. It is also your responsibility to keep informed through the school about your child's education. Together, it is possible to assist our students in reaching their potential as responsible adults and successful learners.



Parent/Teacher Communication

Teachers are direct links to information about your student's academic life and can provide valuable information. They do, however, teach many students, so please be considerate of their time and use avenues of communication wisely. In-person conferences, telephone conversations, and postal and email communications are all open to you. E-mail addresses are available on-line on the school websites.

Conferences

Parent teacher conferences are scheduled each November. Information explaining how to schedule these conferences will be sent to parents in the fall. Parents are given the option to meet with all of their child's teachers or select a few. Conferences enable you to receive a face-to-face evaluation of your child's progress and to discuss class requirements with the teacher. In addition to the formal scheduled conference meetings with teachers, a meeting may be initiated by the teacher or by you at any time. A parent conference may be initiated by the teacher if your child is having academic difficulty or by the parent by calling or emailing the teacher to arrange a mutually convenient time.

In-person conferences may be substituted by telephone, email, and postal communication at any time. Please check with the individual teacher for convenient methods for both of you.

Answering Questions and Solving Problems in the School Setting

The Smithfield Public Schools strive to provide students with the opportunity to experience high academic achievement and steady social development, as well as to provide an experience our students will enjoy. For these goals to be fully realized, it is necessary for the parents and school to work effectively as partners. The progression through the school years can sometimes be stressful even though parents, students and teachers might all go to great lengths in an effort to provide smooth passage. It is during these brief stressful periods that cooperation among all parties is most essential.

Smithfield High School

Principal—Mr. Dan Kelley
401.949.2059
<http://sentinel.smithfield-ps.org/>

Gallagher Middle School

Principal—Ms. Laurie Beauvais
401.949.2056
<http://gms.smithfield-ps.org/>

Anna McCabe Elementary School

Principal—Mrs. Cathy Pleau
401.949.2058
<http://ames.smithfield-ps.org/>

Old County Road Elementary School

Principal—Mrs. Laurie Sullivan
401.231.6613
<http://ocres.smithfield-ps.org/>

Raymond C. LaPerche Elementary School

Principal—Mrs. Julie Dorsey
401.231.6652
<http://rles.smithfield-ps.org/>

William Winsor Elementary School

Principal—Mrs. Laurie Ratigan
401.949.2059
<http://winsor.smithfield-ps.org/>

SMITHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

District Offices
49 Farnum Pike
Smithfield, RI 02917
Phone: 401.231.6606
Fax: 401.232.0780