

TIPS FOR PARTNERING WITH YOUR KID'S TEACHER

Do you feel a bit like school backpacks and homework folders have taken over your house? It's that time of year and whether your kids are tromping off to elementary school or driving themselves to high school, this is a great time to get intentional about supporting and encouraging the adults who invest in your kid every day at school.

We've got some great ideas to get you started. Sprinkle these throughout the year, but don't do them at the holidays—everyone does stuff for teachers then. (“Oh, another coffee mug.”)

MAKE IT A TEAM EFFORT

Start the year off with a great partnership! Give the teacher specifics on how your child best learns, listing some of their strengths—and weaknesses. Go to the teacher conferences and be willing to share how you see your child succeeding or struggling. Make sure to read everything the teacher sends home and reply back promptly. Let the teacher know you are on their team when it comes to your child's learning (or success).

TALK IT UP

One of the best ways you can partner with your kid's teachers is to speak positively at home about them. Ask your kid what they like about their teacher and then chime in with the things you like about them too. Say things like, “I'm thankful you have Mrs. Larson this year, she's so creative!” Modeling a positive attitude about school helps your kids look forward to the days ahead.

VOLUNTEER

It's great if you have time during the day to help in your kid's classroom, but don't forget about ways to offer your talents outside the school day too. Cutting out 25 paper apples or collecting the items for that classroom science project could be the time saver your teacher needs. A great way to get started is just to ask, “How can I help you this year?” Or month or week.

SWEETEN THE RELATIONSHIP

Do you know your kid's teacher's favorite treat? It's time to find out! It might be their favorite chocolate but don't forget about small ways to help them relax after the end of a busy day. A gift card to Starbucks or a scented lotion or soap could be just the ticket.

PUT IT IN WRITING

Proverbs 16:24 tells us: “Kind words are like honey; sweet to the soul and healthy for the body.” Sending a note to your kid's teacher full of words of encouragement and reminding them of all they are doing right will breathe life into a busy, hectic week. Don't forget about the Principal and the office staff, too!

PRAY

Praying for your kid's teacher is an awesome thing and when you include the whole family, it's even better. Pray out loud for the teacher on the car ride to school or as you are connecting with your kid before they go to bed at night. Ask your kid if they'd like to lead the prayer, but if they don't want to, lead the way yourself, asking God to fill your kids' teachers with wisdom and encouragement, thanking God for them in your lives. (This is also a really great practice if your child doesn't like their teacher.)

For more ideas and inspiration, visit www.theParentCue.org.