

September 2010

## **Our mission is to create a learning community that prepares all students to be productive, responsible, and successful.**

With the beginning of school comes the challenge of getting back in the school routine after the summer break. Below are some suggestions on how to help get the school year started off right and sustain success throughout the year.

### **What can I do to help my child start the school year off right?**

- Find out as much as you can about the grade level your child is in and about what the teacher expects. Expectations can vary from grade to grade and teacher to teacher. Finding out as much as possible at the beginning of the year can set a positive tone which can lead to continued success.
- Review the school handbook to fully understand the policies and expectations for the school your child is attending.
- Frequently visit the school website. The website is a great source for information about upcoming events, assignments, information, and schedules.
- Talk with your child about school. The typical answer from students when you ask about their school day is “fine”. However, by continuing to let your child know that you think school and learning is important and encouraging them to talk to you about their attitudes and feelings about school can go a long way in improving their overall success.

### **How Can I be more actively involved in my child’s school?**

- Attend back to school nights, student exhibitions, and other school events. Each building will be holding parent nights as well as many other student activities throughout the year. By attending these events, you can get to know your child’s teachers and other school personnel.
- Offer to help in the school. One of the best ways to become involved in your child’s education and have a positive impact on your child’s education is to volunteer in the school. If you have an interest in volunteering, contact the building principal and ask if there are ways that you can help.
- Agree to serve on community advisory groups. One aspect of a good school district is community involvement and input. This year, we are going to be holding various community forums as well as possibly forming a community committee to assist in the long-term planning and monitoring of the school district goals.

### **How can I help my child with homework?**

- Talk with your child’s teacher about homework policies. One of the continual struggles each year is homework. It is difficult to know sometimes if your child has homework, if it is a required assignment, how long it should take to do, or what the teacher expects. By talking to the teacher, you can hopefully clear up some of this confusion and take some of the anxiety out of the homework process.
- Agree with your child on a set time to do homework every day. It is difficult, especially at the beginning of school, to get in the routine of doing homework. By setting a specific time and place each day and making homework a part of the

daily routine, the effort and performance on homework assignments can be greatly improved.

- Talk with your child about assignments to see that he or she understands them. One of the common frustrations students experience with homework is that they don't fully understand what they are expected to do. Once they experience this frustration, it is often times difficult to get them to do the assigned work. By going over the expectations of the assignments at the beginning of the process, hopefully a lot of the frustration can be avoided.
- Check to see that your child has done all of the assigned work and reward progress. Monitoring the work your child does will and rewarding and praising effort can further reinforce that your belief that the school work and learning is important.

### **Important Upcoming Dates:**

**September 3<sup>rd</sup>**-School Improvement Day-12:17 Dismissal

**September 6<sup>th</sup>**-Labor Day-No School

**September 15<sup>th</sup>**-Midterm

**September 18<sup>th</sup>**-Midterm Reports Sent Home

### **School Improvement Goals and Objectives**

Through the school improvement process, we hope to promote a positive atmosphere and increased communication and welcome your input and suggestions on ways to accomplish this. Please use the opinions and ideas link on our website at [www.okawvalley.org](http://www.okawvalley.org) to share any ideas or concerns.