

PASS 3: Strategies that Enrich and Expand Student Learning

A Five Star Communication between Home and School
Key Points for Parent/Teacher Communication about Student Learning

The PASS model refers to the term "parent" as any adult who plays an important role in a child's family life.



The Family-5

A Five-Star Academic Communication between School and Home

Teachers and parents may want to consider using the attached sample document as a basis for communication about student learning standards, lessons, real-world applications, and big ideas from student experiences in class. Parents who are well-informed about current academic information can play an important role in supporting student success.

Individuals or groups of classroom teachers can create five-star academic communications like the one described below to help families become more informed about what and how students are learning in school.

A 5-star quality academic communication is not a rating scale (like a 5-star restaurant meal or hotel stay) but it is a simple five-point guide to important academic expectations for student learning. It isn't a substitute for academic discussions among teachers, parents, and students but it does provide a real-time "snap shot" of teaching and learning inside the classroom.

Parents can use the information in "The Family 5" to support their child's learning and performance inside and outside of school. The five key points that all families should know about what their child is learning are: the definition, goal, objective, application to the real world, and at-home strategies to support student learning. Then in turn, when parents share observations and feedback about the student's learning outside of school, a strong partnership bond between parents, their child, and his or her teacher will contribute to learning in school.

As part of a strong partnership system between home/school, regular communications such as "The Family 5" can serve as a basis for:

- ✓ Informed two-way messages about classroom lessons and student performance at school;
- ✓ Parent feedback on how well students understand and complete homework;
- ✓ Plans to expand and enrich a student's out-of-school learning experiences;
- ✓ Individual questions during parent/teacher conferences;
- ✓ A plan with academic goals to strengthen student performance;
- ✓ Insight so that parents and their children can have meaningful academic discussions at home;
- ✓ Observations and insights into student performance benchmarks measured on annual state tests; and
- ✓ Opportunities to create stronger partnership bonds for students' benefit.

Meaningful and regular academic communication to and from parents is a powerful tool that makes a difference in how, and how well, students learn and achieve.



The Family 5: A Five-Star Academic Communication between Home and School

Teachers at our school are committed to building *new* home/school partnerships specifically for student learning. “Family 5” communications outline the main concepts taught throughout the school year and contain key information about what and how students learn in school. Combined with other sources of information - prior to report cards and tests - parents can use “The Family 5” information to monitor, track, benchmark, and support their child’s performance and progress.

With more academic information, parents can have a role in their child’s education, strengthen their partnerships and communication with educators, and support their child’s learning both in and out of school.

Regular “Family 5” communications can help build strong, well-informed academic partnerships between parents and educators.

Key Topic: _____

Five Points that Families Should Know ...

- 1 Definition (This is what students are learning in class.)
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- 2 Goal (This is what we want students to do when they have learned the concept.)
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- 3 Objective (This is how students are taught the concept.)
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- 4 Application to the “real world” (This is why students are learning this concept.)
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- 5 At home strategy for student success (This is how you can help your child learn this concept.)
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