



PARENT ORIENTATION : RESEARCH

MOVING FROM ANXIOUSNESS TO ANTICIPATION

“A successful orientation will help present parents with a framework to navigate the plethora of opportunities and experiences your school has to offer. It also helps parents to understand their capacity as: teachers, decision makers, supporters, advocates and learners.”

RESEARCH INSIGHTS

Every school and educational institution has its own set of **unique values, philosophies, educational pedagogy, curriculum requirements and school culture** (among many others). It is often the role of the school to **introduce parents** to this **new culture** and define the role that the parents play in this new space. In order to have an effective orientation, it's important for a school to first define why you want **parents as partners**? What are the **vital components** of the school that are necessary for parents to know, for their child to get the most out of the experience? What are the **expectations and roles** you want parents to play, and what do they need to do to gain **high-level commitment**? A successful orientation will help present parents with a **framework to navigate** the plethora of opportunities and experiences your school has to offer. It also helps parents to understand their capacity as: teachers, decision makers, supporters, advocates and learners.¹

PARENT ORIENTATION : IN A NUTSHELL

- Students with parents who understand the **culture and expectations** of a school, irrespective of their income or background, are **more likely** to have higher grades and test scores, attend school regularly, have better social skills and show improved behaviour.²
- **Teacher - parent communication** is crucial to the **overall wellbeing** of the child. if these are established in the early stages of the students enrolment, teachers are often cited as valuable partners for parents later on for academic as well as non-academic issues.³
- **Student graduation** between KeyStages can pose as a **challenge as well as an opportunity** to involve parents in the process of the transition. Schools that focus on the new relationship between teacher-students as well as teacher-parent make successful adjustments to **social, procedural and academic outcomes**.⁴

REFERENCES

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- ⁴Akos, P., & Galassi, J. (2004). Middle and High School Transitions as Viewed by Students, Parents and Teachers. *Professional School Counseling*, 7(4), 212-221. Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/42732584>