

Staff Report

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The Win-Win Word Win-Win Relationship Tips

Building Win-Win Relationships So Every Student Succeeds
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Using Win-Win Discipline – the book, the philosophy, the synthesis of research – is all about building Win-Win Relationships, not just between teachers and their students, but also between teachers and administrators, teacher and teachers, teachers and families, and so on. Although professional development around this discipline philosophy can be helpful for teachers experiencing disruption in the classroom, it's really more about communication, relating to each other in positive ways and building a community that can successfully provide our children with what they need to grow into successful adults.

Building a relationship between school and home is paramount to student success. One of the things I hear over and over again is that there is a need for help from home. The following are three strategies with which I have had personal success that are also mentioned in chapter 18 of Win-Win Discipline, by Kagan Publishing.

1. Make Frequent Phone Calls – Make it a habit to make three to four very brief phone calls per week. Share one or two positive aspects of a student's progress in behavior and/or academics. Share concerns when necessary, but always start with

something positive. An easy way to do this is to keep your class list on a parent communication log and just rotate through it. In middle and high school, you can work out a system with your teams to share the responsibility.

2. Create a Weekly or Bi-Weekly Class Newsletter – Elementary students can contribute or create newsletters and middle- and high-school students can create them with your contributions. This is a way to keep parents up to date on happenings in your class, including such topics as which standards you are working on or recognition of individual student achievement or other successes in your class.

3. Share Project/Assignment Evaluations – Clearly share expectations with students and parents before the students begin a project via a rubric or another form of objective scoring criteria. You may even want to share exemplars. It is important that evaluation be explicit and objective at the outset.

In addition to the three mentioned above, there are many simple but great ideas for developing a partnership with parents/families in Win-Win Discipline (Kagan, 2004) starting on page 18.52. If you have others you would like to share or, for further discussion, questions or comments, visit the Win-Win Forum at <http://forum.elmiracityschools.com>.