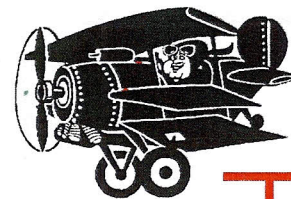


# FRANKLIN



# FLYER NEWS

Franklin's namesake Benjamin Franklin once wrote, "A slip of the foot you may soon recover, but a slip of the tongue you may never get over." Everyone reading this newsletter has likely said something to another person they wish they had not said. I know that I am personally guilty of that offense. A moment of passionate speech can certainly lead to hours of silent anguish. However, effectively communicating with each other is an absolute necessity as we work together to promote the social, intellectual, and moral growth of Franklin's Youth. The focus of this month's news article is enhancing communication between school personnel and parents.

Technology has made it easier to quickly communicate with each other. Two wonderful tools we have to facilitate communication regarding school closings, activity cancellations, activity time changes, and other important school information are the school's webpage and the school's automated calling service. To ensure that you are able to access the school's webpage quickly and easily, bookmark the website or make it your homepage. The correct address of the Franklin Public School's Homepage is <<http://franklin.k12.ne.us/franklin.home.html>>. This address has recently changed. So, even if you have bookmarked the school's homepage in the past, I recommend revisiting the site and bookmarking it again to ensure you have the correct website address bookmarked.

Recently, some families have reported missing messages delivered by the school's calling service or have only received a portion of these messages. Franklin Public Schools' intention is to make this calling service a convenience, not a nuisance, for everyone involved. The following hints will help minimize missed phone calls:

- Set home answering machine to 4 Rings or less.
- Regularly delete old messages from your machine. Some answering machines will allow a greater or lesser number of rings prior to answering incoming calls depending on whether or not there are saved messages on the machine.
- Don't use trick messages such as "Hello, hello! Just kidding I'm not here right now. Please leave your message after the beep."
- Have a brief pause of 1 to 2 seconds after the greeting, "Hello, you have reached the Smith residence...(pause for 1 to 2 seconds)...then continue speaking."
- A recorded human voice is preferable to an automated voice.
- For cellular phones, be sure your voicemail is operable and that your message folder is not full.
- If you have Alltel cellular service and are only getting part of the message (usually the later portion of the message), please contact the office as there is a solution to this issue.
- Be sure that the school has the correct number to reach you at. If you have recently changed your land line or your cellular number, please let the office know that.
- If at anytime you feel the school's calling service is not reaching you correctly or if you know you have missed messages or received partial messages in the past, please call the office at 425.6283 for further assistance.

While technology offers a wonderful means of quickly transmitting information, nothing beats a good old fashion face to face talk. Communicating using the cell phone or the computer can be problematic because there are so many nuances communicated through face to face conversation that are lost when the computer or the cell phone are used such as body language, intonation, emphasis, and timing. I strongly encourage you to communicate with school personnel face to face whenever possible. Try these tips when you are communicating with school personnel:

- Find a good time to talk with your child's teacher by asking your child's teacher what times they have available. Often it is a good idea to call ahead or email ahead and make an appointment. Teachers have many extra duties such as extra curricular activity sponsorship, school improvement committees, professional development, etc., that they must attend to in addition to their regular teaching duties. They will always make time to speak with a concerned parent; however, it is always best to schedule that time.
- Prepare yourself mentally before speaking to your child's teacher by reminding yourself that both you and the teacher have the same goal, your child's intellectual and moral development.
- Don't be intimidated by your child's teacher. Remember that teachers are human beings. If you are preparing to talk to your child's teacher about a stressful or difficult situation and you are nervous or anxious, you can rest assured that the teacher is probably feeling the same way. Relax, breath, smile!
- Be prepared to get all of your questions answered by writing down your questions and concerns. Put your questions in a checklist and check the questions off as they are answered. It is easy to get sidetracked and forget to ask all of your questions.
- Take notes when you have a meeting with your child's teacher. That way you can clearly communicate the teacher's thoughts or advice when you talk to your spouse or to your student.
- Try to remain open minded and avoid being defensive. This can be very, very challenging. We all love our children unconditionally and find it very difficult to see any of their defects. When others are critical of your children it is actually quite normal to become very defensive. However, do not let that defensiveness transform into aggressive behavior. Aggressive behavior isn't productive, healthy, or normal. It is hurtful to your relationship with the teacher.
- Remain positive in your dealings with the teacher, especially in front of your child. Children are very perceptive. If they sense that you are angry or aggressive towards a teacher, they may view that as acceptable behavior and be encouraged to act in the same way, which will only aggravate the situation. Additionally, when you are focused on being angry at the teacher rather than focusing on your child, you are wasting energy that could be used on making the situation better for your child.
- Don't be afraid to talk to other school personnel. The guidance counselor, principals, and superintendent are resources for all students and for all parents. If you're not finding productivity in exclusively dealing with the teacher, call the guidance counselor, principal, or superintendent and ask them for help.

Personally, I have been very impressed with the parents' willingness to help the teachers and the students be productive in the classroom and in competition in extra curricular activities. We have a strong group of parents and a wonderful group of students to work with at Franklin Public Schools. Our goal is to preserve that strong working relationship through continuing to communicate with parents and students in a positive and productive manner. If I can be of assistance to you in improving the lines of communication between you and the staff, please feel free to call upon me at 425-6283 or email me at [kschroed@esu11.org](mailto:kschroed@esu11.org). I'd be happy to speak with you and help you anyway I can.