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PARENTS AND TEACHERS... PRESENTING A UNITED FRONT

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While I was randomly reading some articles on the internet, I have come across an article last 2020 and I thought it is rather relevant to our context at NHJS. Reflecting on my own interaction with parents and teachers for many years as a subject facilitator and a school leader, I cannot help but agree that sometimes the school and teachers and parents are not in sync when it comes to educating their children and oftentimes are quietly opposing each other. While we advocate every teacher-parent meeting that we should be partners in educating our children, we tend to forget this especially when the it comes to matters of discipline or in instances where the school starts implementing rules that parents may not agree with fully.

It is essential that parents and school should have a unified stand in every matter pertaining to their children's education. In the same manner that it is essential that parents present a united front when raising their children, the school and parents must join their hands together to effectively reach their shared goal of developing individuals, in our case at NHJS, who can become good sons and daughters who are anchored in values. However, the reality is that there is this conflict that sometimes permeate the community especially when an unfavourable behaviour of the child is highlighted by a teacher. Also, there are several times when parents would talk disapprovingly about the school because of one teacher's mistake, obscuring the many good work done by many teachers daily.

This following article below is written by a principal and offered great insights on how parents and school should partner together to help students succeed and realise their full potential. Some are hard to swallow, and some may push us to become defensive. However, it is important to understand the wisdom of it all so that parents and teachers will be on the same page all the time.

UPCOMING EVENTS

August

- 19** Celebration of Independence Day
- 20** SC Training
- 22** SC Investiture
- 26** Year 1 Milestone Programme (All By Myself)
- 26** Annual Sharing of A-level and Educational Pathway beyond Y10
- 27** NHJS Virtual Open House



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6 Important School Tips for Parents From a Principal

Great Insight to Help Your Child Succeed in School by Derrick Meador

For teachers, parents can be your worst enemy or your best friend. Over the course of the last decade, I have worked with a handful of the most difficult parents, as well as many of the best parents. I believe that the majority of parents do a terrific job and genuinely try their best. The truth is that being a parent is not easy. We make mistakes, and there is no way we can be good at everything. Sometimes as a parent it is critical to rely on and seek advice from experts in certain areas. As a principal, I would like to offer a few school tips for parents that I believe every educator would want them to know, and that will also benefit their children.

1. Be Supportive

Any teacher will tell you that if a child's parent is supportive that they will gladly work through any issues that might arise over the course of the school year. Teachers are human, and there is a chance they will make a mistake. However, despite perception, most teachers are dedicated professionals who do a terrific job day in and day out. It is unrealistic to think that there are not bad teachers out there, but most are exceptionally skilled at what they do. If your child does have a lousy teacher, please don't judge the next teacher based on the previous, and voice your concerns about that teacher to the principal. If your child has an excellent teacher, then make sure that the teacher knows how you feel about them and also let the principal know. Voice your support not only of the teacher but of the school as a whole.

2. Be Involved and Stay Involved

One of the most frustrating trends in schools is how the level of parental involvement decreases as a child's age increases. It is an extremely discouraging fact because children of all ages would benefit if their parents would stay involved. While it is certain that the first few years of school are arguably the most important, the other years are important as well.

Children are smart and intuitive. When they see their parents taking a step back in their involvement, it sends the wrong message. Most children will start to slack off too. It is a sad reality that many middle school and high school parent/teacher conferences have an exceedingly small turnout. The ones who do show up are the ones that teachers often say don't need to, but the correlation to their child's success and their continued involvement in their child's education is no mistake.

Every parent should know what is going on in their child's daily school life. A parent should do the following things every day:

- Ask your child how their school day went. Engage in conversation about what they learned, whom their friends are, what they had for lunch, etc.
- Make sure your child has time set aside to complete homework. Be there to answer any questions or assist when needed.
- Read all notes/memos sent home from the school and/or teacher. Notes are the primary form of communications between a teacher and parents. Look for them and read them to stay up-to-date on events.
- Contact your child's teacher immediately if you have any concerns.



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- Value your child's education and express the importance of it every single day. This is arguably the single most valuable thing a parent can do when it comes to their child's education. Those that value education often thrive and those that don't often fail.

3. Do Not Bad-Mouth the Teacher in Front of Your Child

Nothing undermines the authority of a teacher any faster than when a parent continuously bashes them or talks bad about them in front of their child. There are times when you are going to be upset with a teacher, but your child should never know exactly how you feel. It will interfere with their education. If you vocally and adamantly disrespect the teacher, then your child will likely mirror you. Keep your personal feelings about the teacher between yourself, the school administration, and the teacher.

4. Follow Through

As an administrator, I cannot tell you how many times I have dealt with a student discipline issue where the parent will come in tremendously supportive and apologetic about their child's behavior. They often tell you that they are going to ground their child and discipline them at home on top of the school's punishment. However, when you inquire with the student the next day, they tell you that nothing was done.

Children need structure and discipline and most crave it on some level. If your child makes a mistake, then there should be consequences at school and at home. This will show the child that both the parent and school are on the same page and that they are not going to be allowed to get away with that behavior. However, if you do not have any intent on following through on your end, then do not promise to take care of it at home.

When you practice this behavior, it sends an underlying message that the child can make a mistake, but in the end, there is not going to be a punishment. Follow through with your threats.

5. Do Not Take Your Child's Word for the Truth

If your child came home from school and told you that their teacher threw a box of Kleenexes at them, how would you handle it?

- Would you instantly assume that they are telling the truth?
- Would you call or meet the principal and demand that the teacher be removed?
- Would you aggressively approach the teacher and make accusations?
- Would you call and request a meeting with the teacher to ask them calmly if they could explain what happened?

If you are a parent who chooses anything other than 4, then your choice is the worst kind of a slap in the face to an educator. Parents who take their child's word over an adult before consulting with the adult challenge their authority. While it is entirely possible that the child is telling the truth, the teacher should be given the right to explain their side without being viciously attacked first.

Too many times, children leave out crucial facts, when explaining situations like this to their parent. Children are often devious by nature, and if there is a chance they can get their teacher in trouble, then they will go for it. Parents and teachers who stay on the same page and work together alleviate this opportunity for assumptions and misconceptions because the child knows they won't get away with it.

6. Do Not Make Excuses for Your Child

Help us hold your child accountable. If your child makes a mistake, don't bail them out by constantly making excuses for them.



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From time to time, there are legitimate excuses, but if you are constantly making excuses for your child, then you are not doing them any favors. You won't be able to make excuses for them their whole life, so don't let them get into that habit.

If they didn't do their homework, don't call the teacher and say it was your fault because you took them to a ball game. If they get in trouble for hitting another student, don't make the excuse that they learned that behavior from an older sibling. Stand firm with the school and teach them a life lesson that could prevent them from making bigger mistakes later on.

Reference:

Meador, Derrick. (2020, August 26). 6 Important School Tips for Parents From a Principal.

Retrieved from <https://www.thoughtco.com/important-school-tips-for-parents-3194410>

Shared by:

Mr Dexter Higinio C. Canicula

Dean for Secondary & Junior College

SC Selection AY 2022-2023

Year after year, it never gets easier. The Student Council Selection has always been one of the most challenging events throughout the academic year. As students from Y8-Y11 fight through the rigor of intensive interviews and application processes, each of them are faced with a new obstacle they will eventually have to overcome. In the few weeks of prolonged agony, the nerves and excitement can never truly define the experience a student receives. The lessons learned are various as they are meaningful.

"During the interview I was really nervous and at one point I even started shaking because of how scared I was. I felt so relieved after the interview was over and waited very impatiently for the acceptance announcement. When they finally announced that I was accepted as Secretary I was really happy and excited. During the selection process, I learned how difficult of a decision it was and how it required a lot of thought and consideration for each applicant. In the end, I am very excited to see what the new batch of SC brings." — **Yu Yong En, Y11P, 14th Batch General Secretary**

As we constantly direct our goals to serve the school community, every member receiving a position in the Student Council must display uniqueness, righteousness, and the ability to embody the PIAGET values. In other words, be a role model for our fellow students. Nevertheless, it is no easy feat. It takes so much more than that. The demanding workload, overwhelming pressure to always be the best person you can be, and upholding exemplary social etiquettes will always be a tough challenge that comes from being a Student Council member. Knowing the difficulties that come with each role in the Student Council, we can certainly look forward to seeing this select group of students to lead our student body with passion and dedication.

"During the entire selection process, I was inspired and captivated by the display of heart and passion from all the applicants. I could feel the desire to make NationalHigh a better place even through my laptop screen. I was also impressed by Danica's leadership and decision-making skills in selecting her 14th batch. I am extremely excited to see what this batch has to offer."

— **Viggo Oliever Sugih, Y12I, 13th Batch President**



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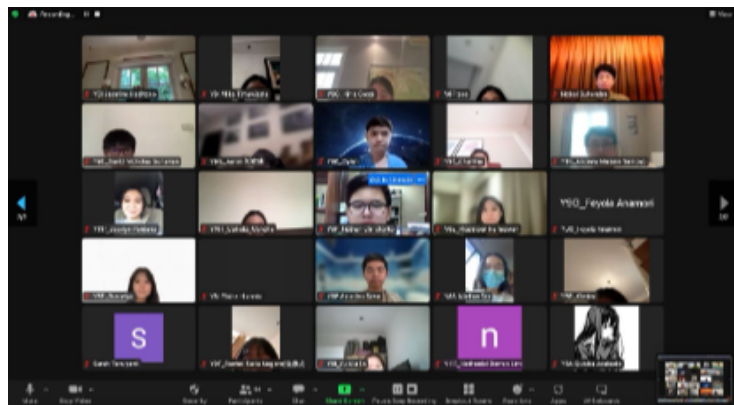
“Student Council is, to be honest, a big part of my life. It has helped me grow through creating events, friends and not to mention working with a dedicated and caring community. I loved working with the other committee heads, my deputy head, the governing committee, the vice chairs and the mentors making events people would benefit from. I can’t wait to see what this year has in store for!”

— **Danica Aurelie Hartawan, Y11P, 14th Batch President**



Shared by:

Charlene Chang Kurniawan (Y12I)



Students' Achievements

This year, there were so many strong candidates that it was really difficult for us to carefully consider who is best fitted for a position in the Student Council. We wish it were possible for us to admit more of our fine applicants, and we understand how challenging the application process may be for the students as well as their families. We very much appreciate the interest you have shown in our Student Council, and we would like to strongly encourage them to join our events as volunteers and welcome them to try again next year. Congratulations to the 14th batch of Student Council!

“A mind that is stretched by new experiences can never go back to its old dimensions.”

– **Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.**





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Y2 Milestone Programme: I Can Succeed

The Year 2 Milestone Program: I Can Succeed is one platform that caters to the developmental needs of Year 2 students. This is a part of the PIAGET 12-Year Education Journey. It helped each child to understand the importance of believing in themselves.

The five over-arching objectives of I Can Succeed (ICS) were:

- Cultivate the skill of organising their things.
- Learn the basics of proper hygiene.
- Learn how to maintain social distancing and good etiquette during a pandemic.
- Learn how to cooperate with others.
- Learn the skill of communicating politely with others.

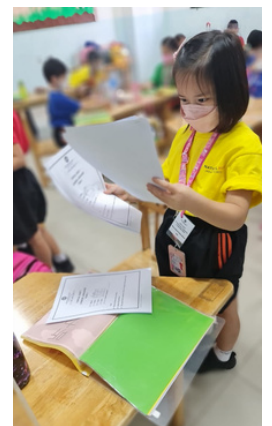
The mentors and level teachers facilitated the following activities to help achieve the objectives:

- Discussion about covid 19 and how to prevent it
- Taichi
- Practice handwashing and changing masks properly
- Lunch together and cleaning of the table
- Tour and Greet
- Filing of work and cleaning of their school bag

There were also a lot of teachable moments that showed authentic learning. With these activities, the teachers hoped that the Year two students would be prepared for greater responsibility at school and at home. The good habits introduced and experienced during ICS could be further reinforced during the academic year. The family can also reinforce these good habits and will become valuable life-long guidance for each child.

Shared by:

Ms Elvie Petiza Moreno





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Virtual OPEN HOUSE

REGISTER NOW



NHJS VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, 27 August 2022

Time: 9.00 - 10.00 am

Venue: Online via Zoom

Get Waiver

75%*
cashback

Jl Raya Pos Pengumben 41
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