

Another Valuable Resource for Parents
Debbie Hughes – State Parent Advisory Council

On Wednesday, April 29, I attended a workshop sponsored by the Westerville City Schools Community Relations Department titled “The Home-School Connection – How to Become More Involved in Your Child’s Education.”

The following is a summary of the workshop presented by Martin Kyle Johnson, Psy.D. - Licensed Psychologist/Certified School Psychologist for Springfield City Schools/Columbus City Schools.

Motivational Messages	Ways Parents Communicate These Messages
Communicate high and realistic expectations	<p>Expect that the child does his/her best always, exhibits appropriate behavior at school, and completes homework.</p> <p>Discuss consequences with the child for not meeting expectations; follow through with the consequences.</p> <p>Positively reinforce the child for meeting expectations.</p> <p>Hold high aspirations for the child and continually discuss those aspirations with the child.</p>
Communicate commitment to education through monitoring	<p>Monitor the child’s in- and out-of school time including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> academic progress in-school behavior homework time spent with friends
Communicate the importance of effort	<p>Talk to child about the importance of working hard and always doing his/her best. Positively reinforce good grades and grade improvements earned through hard work.</p> <p>Positively reinforce the effort put forth on tasks.</p> <p>Focus on child’s strengths and show them how they can make the best of them.</p>
Support the child’s developing independence	<p>Give responsibilities at home.</p> <p>Allow child to make decisions or be part of the decision making when the decision affects his/her life.</p> <p>Allow the child to make mistakes, deal with the consequences of those mistakes, and learn from them.</p>
Communicate the value of education	<p>Model learning and continuing education.</p> <p>Show child how education connects to his/her future.</p> <p>Make learning part of everyday activities.</p> <p>Demonstrate through your words and actions that you value school and the child’s education.</p> <p>Engage the child in educational experiences outside of school.</p> <p>Discuss opportunities for continued education after high school such as four-year college, community college, or technical school.</p>
Communicate the importance of persistence	<p>Encourage and help the child to continue working when they are struggling.</p> <p>Give the child breaks to recharge, and then encourage him/her to try again.</p> <p>Communicate with their teachers about hard assignments and ways to work through them</p> <p>Help children with the process of working on large projects – find ways to problem-solve, help search for research sources, prioritize tasks, manage time, and “chunk” the project into manageable parts.</p>