



PARENT

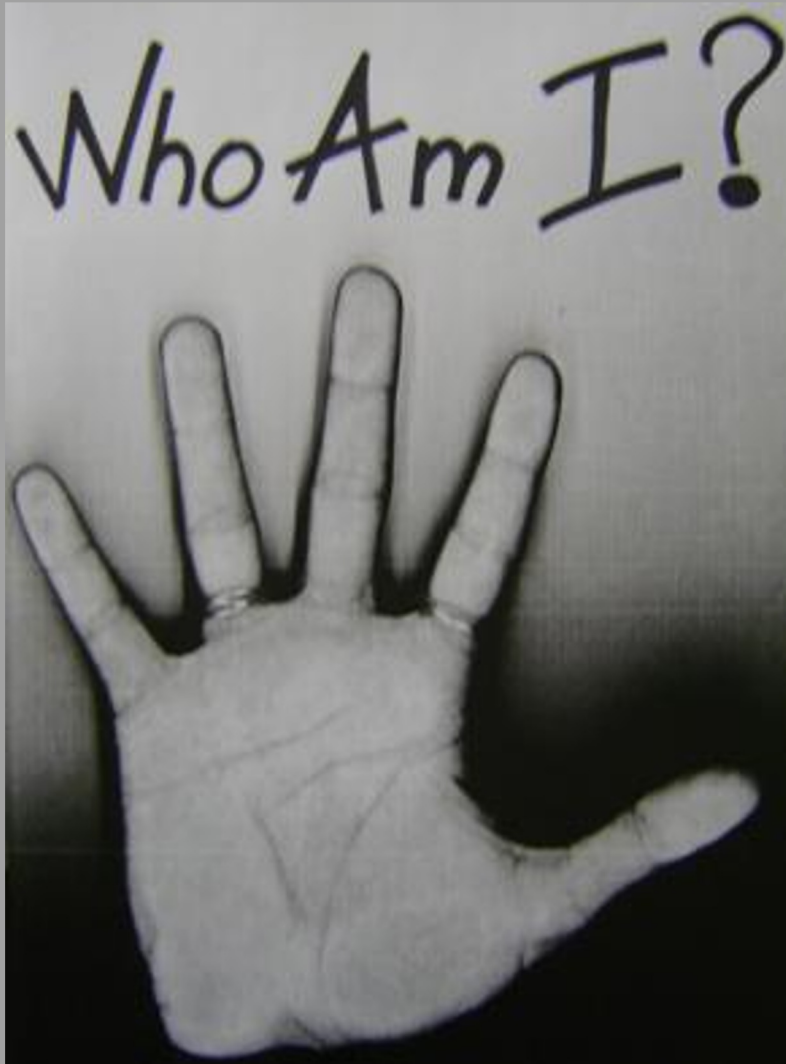
Communication

Basic Principles of Communication



- Effective communication is the full consideration of **content**, **process**, and **context** regarding a message
- “The meaning of the communication is the response you get.” (Bandler & Grinder)

Communication



Starts
With
YOU

**Effective
communication
with a parent is
sometimes
challenging but it
is an essential.**



“The bad news is your son failed every test I gave this term. The good news is that we know he’s not abusing any mind-expanding drugs.”

Understanding is KEY

Parent's **rational** wants and desires...



- Great teachers that know and care about their child
- Capable and well-adjusted children that represent them well
- Respect in the community and in their home

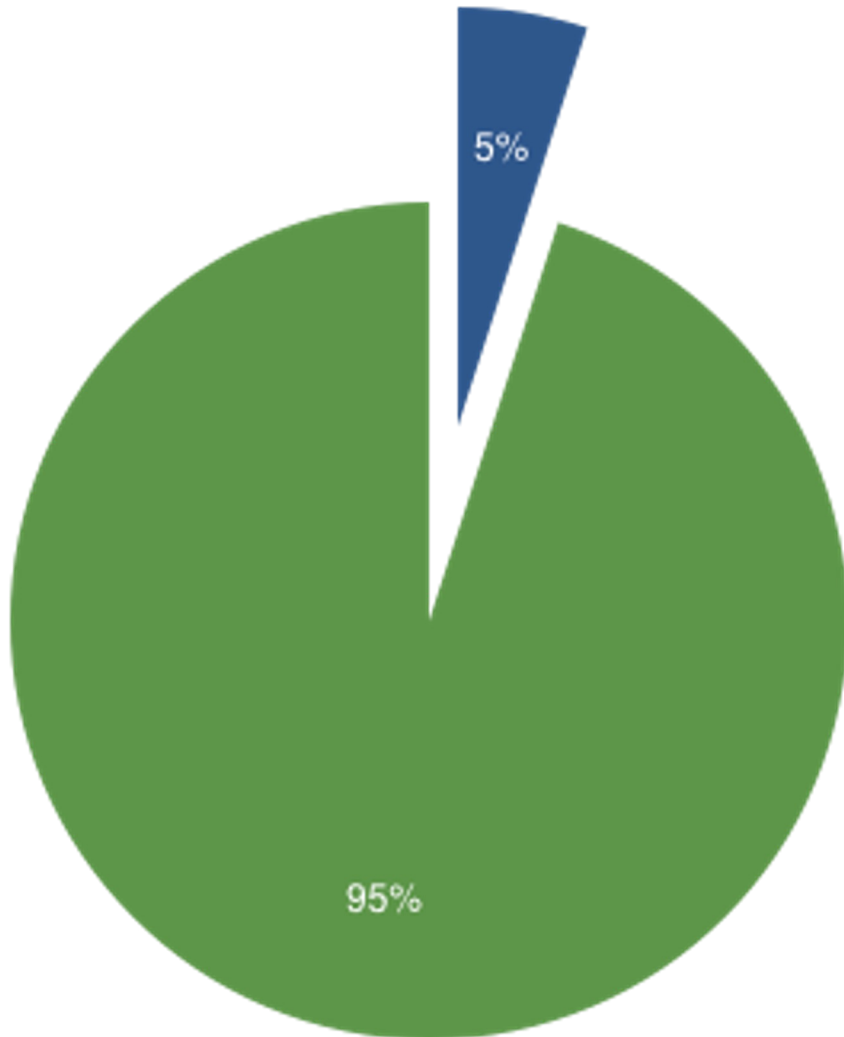
Understanding is KEY

Parents **irrational** wants and desires...



- Bending the Rules
- Approval/Therapy
- Favors
- “Happy” “Failure Free” Children
- Their “Money’s Worth”
- Substitute Parenting

5% Rule



**5% of the parents
cause 95%
of the frustration**



NARRATIVE

Josie currently has an 80.55% overall average. Josie brings great energy to the class and is very engaged. She asks questions, she contributes to the class discussion, and works well with the other students in class. Moving forward, Josie needs to work against her natural desire to chit chat with many people throughout the class period. I believe this causes her to miss vital information that would help her better understand the material. It was evident on her Measurements and Calculations assessment that she didn't fully understand the process of converting between units. As we move forward, the process of converting will be present in every unit for the remainder of the year. Throughout this semester Josie will encounter other skills and material that will be essential for the entire course as well. I would like to partner with you and Josie to develop some strategies to keep Josie focused so she doesn't miss the essential information that has prevented her from demonstrating her capacity to learn and use the information learned. Please let me know a good time to connect with you and Josie.



Case Studies

Jamie is a student in your 4th grade classroom. Her mother, Anne, stops by your room at the end of school to tell you that she feels her daughter is getting too much homework in your class. Anne is concerned that Jamie isn't getting enough down time, and she has been allowing Jamie to skip part of her homework.

As you are loading groceries in your car, Maeve's mother, Sarah, approaches you to ask about a conflict between her 15 year old daughter and her friend, both of whom are in your high school history class. She is hoping you will intervene without letting Maeve know she has talked with you. Sarah is clearly distraught and close to tears.

Over the weekend, you receive the following email:

My son is not enjoying your literature class. He says that you have him reading selections that have no relevance to his every day existence. He says that because he does not like what you are making him read, you talk down to him. Please let me know what you will be doing about this.

Bill Jemison, Chair
Annual Giving Campaign

During advisory Matt, 7th grade student who is president of his class SGA, seems disconnected from the group which is not normal for him at all. You ask him to stay behind to check in. During your conversation you discover that Matt's father has recently received a cancer diagnosis. Matt is confused, devastated and mad that this is happening to his family and to him.

During your parent teacher conference Tracey's mother expresses her concern about Tracey being allowed to play "boy sports" at school and is not encouraged to play with other girls. Tracey seems to have a huge interest in basketball and she is actually very good for her age. But mom would like her to do more with the girls in her grade.

You have received a request to be Facebook friends with the chair of the Parent Staff Association. The parent is a long time member of the school community and has a child in your middle school advisory group.

Steps to Effective Communication With Parents

- Establish a “partnership” with the parents of your students.
- Have a plan...be prepared!!
 - Know the school norms and policies
 - Establish boundaries and parameters
- Be clear and consistent.
- NO SURPRISES!!
- Be open and honest
- Be proactive not reactive
- Do not make promises you can't keep
- Use logic not emotion
- Communicate good and bad information to parents on a regular basis

Thoughts and Reflections

