

Advocacy for Student Success

As a parent, you are your child's best education advocate — until he or she is old enough and informed enough to take the lead! However, it doesn't mean that you are alone in the process. In the Spring Hill School District, the goal is for teachers, principals and district staff to partner with parents and students to ensure that your child has the resources needed to grow and succeed. Here are some key tips for families:

- 1) **Build Relationships** — Getting to know your student's teacher(s), principals, nurses and anyone else who provides services will help keep lines of communication open and avoid misunderstandings.
- 2) **Ask Questions** — Be sure to ask about classroom expectations, technology use, homework, policies, grading systems and resources to support your student.
- 3) **Monitor Records & Review Assignments** — Regularly check Skyward Family Access to see grades and assignments, which helps you support your student in his/her work and praise him/her for progress. Be sure to keep copies of all important documents.
- 4) **Attend Meetings Regularly** — Schedule regular meeting times and be prepared with a list of questions, such as what's coming up in class in order to prepare students. Take notes at meetings and keep copies in a file.
- 5) **Stay Calm** — Remember that teachers and other school staff members are there to help, even if you disagree with them. The process will go smoothly if both parties listen carefully and keep an open mind, as the goal is partnering with you to help your student succeed.
- 6) **Understand the Chain of Communication** — Always start with your student's teacher with any questions or concerns, as they are most familiar with your child. As needed, ask the principal to join the communication process. If needed, the principal will refer you to the appropriate district administrator.
- 7) **Teach Your Student to Self Advocate** — Sometimes your child's best advocate is actually him/herself depending on age. Teaching your student how to approach a teacher respectfully when they have a problem before getting you involved teaches them that they have the power to control their own educational experience. It's also great preparation for when they have to do the same with their professors in college.
- 8) **Utilize Resources** — Visit www.usd230.org/advocacy.



Spring Hill
SCHOOL DISTRICT