

NOV/DEC 2022

DEAR TROJAN FAMILIES:

We are off to a great start and first Quarter grades will be released in the evening on November 2nd. Quarter 1 signifies the halfway point of our first semester. So, a good check in on how your student(s) is/are doing at this point in time. At this time I would like to ask parents and families for their support for student success.

At Auburn High School we are quite aware that our parents and family members are our student's first teachers. You all know your students best and can be of great support and service in helping them succeed daily during high school. With this in mind I enthusiastically encourage you to always take an active role with their education as they ready themselves for their futures beyond high school graduation.

My hope is that you all will see yourselves as part of our AHS learning community as sort of a specialist when it comes to your own learner(s). The insights you have and the knowledge of their aspirations are key in setting them up for success during their high school years. Perhaps holding weekly goal setting conversations or weekly family meetings about what they can celebrate from their past week would create a time and space that's both intentional and enjoyable for you and your learner. Learning can be difficult, therefore effort could also be recognized and celebrated when growth or high achievement is attained. Also, maybe instead of going straight to conversations about grades, ask questions geared towards enjoyment, performance, or growth.

- ❖ *If you are a parent of a **Freshman**, asking your student about school work completion and how that makes them feel to meet deadlines. If they are having difficulty with this, ask them about what's getting in the way. Do they know how to ask for help and do they? Are they making it to class on time and can they see their own punctuality as a strength vs. students who are habitually late to classes?*
- ❖ *For the parents of our **10th graders**, maybe ask about how their elective courses are helping them develop a sense of who they are and what they might be interested in as they begin to think about registering for 11th grade courses. Registration will be here before we know it so starting early conversations will serve you well as a parent or family member.*
- ❖ ***11th and 12th grader** conversations could be more future oriented with some curiosities into what they might be thinking about when it comes to their future planning for after high school. Now would be a good time to start researching FAFSA and other possible financial sources for funding post-secondary plans. A great source that all students have access to is our Career Center right here at AHS. We even have a scholarship club that meets on Fridays who research funding sources.*

You'll know best, as parent or family member, about what to talk about but definitely have a game plan for staying connected in enjoyable ways and in ways that support your student's efforts in moving forward because it's a process.

*Daily, our teachers ask students to share "**Good Things**" and the students willingly do. Typically, they share something about their home and family lives. So, maybe flip this and do "Good School Things" when you're at home, and ask them to share something that went really well for them with their learning, with a club, a sport, or with a school friend. Ask questions as they share and let the upcoming conversations grow from there. Even though your students are becoming young adults and may look the part as being self-sufficient individuals, continued shares will be important with their overall development. Staying connected with light conversations is my main point and staying connected to your child's teachers as well can prove beneficial.*

As many of you may know, Auburn High School is a Capturing Kids' Heart National Showcase School for two years running. We have earned this distinction because of our social emotional program that provides a consistent level of check in opportunity for our students. CKH allows us to set up classroom expectations with student input and provides all teachers additional skills to start each class off with positive shares and what's going on in their students' lives and sometimes even their own. Going forward, I will also share our monthly themes from CKH in the form of a CKH Newsletter with you so that you can see what we are using as a monthly emphasis.

For the month of November the theme is *Teamwork: Better Together.*
For December the theme is *Responsibility: Do Your Part.*
Scroll down for English and Spanish versions

Lastly, Fall Parent/Teacher conferences are coming later on November 21, 22 and 23, so hopefully you can continue or start a regular routine established for communicating about school and learning to support your student(s) and their teachers.

Thank you for your support!



Mr. Jeff Gardner - AHS Principal

Better Together

Work together to reach a goal.

This month we're challenging students to work together toward a common goal and shared purpose. We are partnering with you to grow and develop teamwork in your child. We can do this by modeling gratefulness, acknowledging positive moments, and affirming each other. Use this month's activities to practice working together and celebrate your family as a team.



1 Engage: Grateful for You

I am grateful for you! Create a culture of appreciation and gratitude at home by celebrating the best in each family member all month. What you give attention to grows! On a sticky note or small piece of paper, write one thing you appreciate each day about your child and post it on their bedroom door. Doing this will plant seeds in their heads and hearts to help them see good things about themselves.



2 Empower: Walk in My Shoes

Create a culture of appreciation and gratitude at home by celebrating the best in each family member. Have every family member trace one of their shoes, then trade drawings and write three words you admire about that family member on their "shoe." Discuss how each family member brings something great to your family team.



3 Excel: Pay it Forward

When someone does something nice for you, do something nice for someone else. Doing this is a wonderful way to continue the cycle of gratitude. "Paying it forward" is a way of showing love and kindness to others. It could be something as simple as holding the door open for someone or buying coffee for a stranger. Once a week, share as a family one time you "paid it forward" during the week.

Conversation Starters

♥ What is the best affirmation or compliment someone has ever given you?

♥ What are some things we are lucky to have but sometimes complain about them?

♥ What is your favorite family memory?

Do Your Part.

Own your thoughts, words,
and actions.

This month, we're challenging your students to reflect on their experiences and take responsibility for how they choose to learn and grow from these experiences. **We are partnering with you to grow and develop your child's sense of responsibility.** As you reflect as a family, celebrate your accomplishments, identify areas you may want to improve, and consider new ways to serve others in the days ahead.



1 Engage: 100 Family Memories

100 Family Memories. This December, challenge your family to list 100 family memories from the year, big and small. As memories come to mind, add them to the list. At the end of the month, share and reflect on these memories as a family. Celebrate the good ones, talk about the lessons you may have learned from the hard ones, and think about how you have grown this year.



2 Empower: One Word

Instead of writing a long list of resolutions or goals for the new year, ask each family member to focus on one word. Set aside time and ask each family member to share their word and why they chose it. Get creative and make a sign or decorate a notecard with this word to remind you.



3 Excel: Neighborhood Sunshine Walk.

Neighborhood Sunshine Walk. As a family, write a few notes of encouragement to uplift or affirm those in your community. Take a walk in your neighborhood or apartment building and leave these notes of encouragement on windshields, doors, or mailboxes to spread a little sunshine.

Conversation Starters

- ♥ What is your favorite memory from this year?
- ♥ Describe this year in three words. Why did you choose those words?
- ♥ What is one thing you want to learn to do next year?