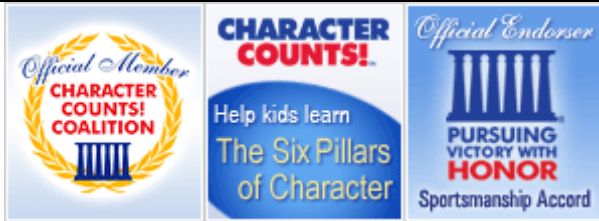


The Bennet Elementary Express

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Character Counts Corner

Living and Reading

One of the most insightful and useful books I've ever read is a small volume by Harold Kushner called *Living a Life That Matters*.

Today I want to suggest ways of getting the most out of books, at least nonfiction books, which is about all I read.

Reading shouldn't be a passive experience. If you allow yourself to be absorbed in the interaction of the author's thoughts and your reactions, it's like a great conversation. Lots of people think it's a sin to mark up a book. I think it's a waste to leave it untouched.

I reread complex, clever, and profound passages several times. I underline them, make notes in the margins, fold back pages, do whatever I can to highlight the parts I find useful or inspirational so I can find them again.

When a passage stimulates thoughts, I write them in the margins or on the blank pages in the front or back of the book. A really good book has me thinking as much as reading, and I never read a book in one sitting. When I restart a book, I revisit my notes like they were old friends.

Both during and after a book, I try to communicate what I've learned or the new ideas it generated in conversations, letters, and even these commentaries. New insights are a great gift, and we should share them. I liked Kushner's book so much that I bought 30 copies and gave them as gifts.

While writing this piece, I realized the way I approach books is also a decent way to approach life: Live it fully and completely at the time, and live it by remembering it and sharing it.

This is Michael Josephson reminding you that character counts.

Bennet Singers Note!

There will not be Bennet Singers practice on Tuesday of this week due to Parent Teacher Conferences. –Mrs. McCreight

Picture Day is Thursday

Don't forget, Elementary Picture Day is Thursday, September 24th!

School and Community Events

Early Dismissals on Sept. 22nd

School will dismiss at 1:10 p.m. on Tuesday, September 22nd, for Parent-Teacher Conferences. Buses will run accordingly. The High School will dismiss at 1:30 p.m. Don't forget to make day care arrangements for your children on that day. The After School Rec. Program will be in operation on Tuesday

High School and Elementary P-T Conferences Tuesday, September 22nd

P-T Conferences for both the high school and elementary buildings will take place on the same day this year.

You should have received a note from your child's classroom teacher with the time for your conference today. If you did not receive one, or the time selected will not work, please contact the school immediately and we will try to work out a time for you.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact the school at 782-3535. We are looking forward to meeting you on Tuesday.

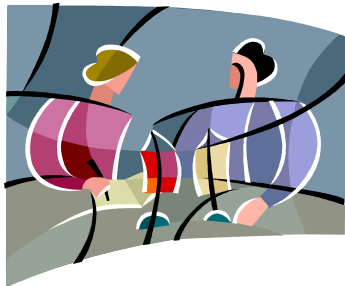


Steps for a Successful Parent – Teacher Conference

The first parent-teacher conference of the year may initially be uncomfortable for both the parent and the teacher. However, a well-conducted conference will move beyond grades or problems that the student may be experiencing. It might be a time for the parents to share their knowledge of their child, including their hopes for the child's future. It could also be an opportunity for the teacher to increase the parents' awareness of their child's classroom experience and how the child relates within the school environment. There are several things that both parents and teachers can do that may help make conferences more successful.

Plan ahead for a Successful Conference

- Review your child's schoolwork and progress reports. Look for special talents, as well as areas of difficulty.
- Talk to your child ahead of time. Find out if there is anything your child would like you to discuss with the teacher.
- Note anything that may be affecting your child's behavior. A change in routine, a divorce, the death of a close relative or pet, etc.
- Make a list of questions and concerns. Don't rely on your memory.
- Arrange for both parents to attend if possible. Try and find a baby sitter if necessary. You'll want to give the teacher your full attention. Set up another time if you can't meet with the teacher on the day scheduled.



During the conference

- Arrive on Time. There are many other conferences during the day. Coming late could upset the schedule and leave you less time with the teacher.
- Stay Calm. Good Communication is the key to a successful conference.
- Relax. You and the teacher are on the same side. Each of you wants success for your child.
- Raise your most important concerns first. There will be a lot to talk about and time is limited. You may not get to every question on your list.
- Listen carefully. Don't plan your response while the teacher is still talking or interrupt to make a point.
- Ask Questions. Make sure you always understand what the teacher is saying. When something is unclear, ask the teacher to explain.
- Develop an action plan. Discuss ways to help your child learn and grow through activities at home and at school.

After the conference:

- Follow-up—following up with either a written or oral communication or "thank-you" is important for an ongoing supportive relationship.
- Involve your child. Tell your child what you and the teacher talked about. Describe the action plan, and answer any questions your child has.
- Stay in touch with the teacher. Compare notes to see if the action plan is working. Ask for another conference if you think it's needed.

As parents and teachers grow in their ability to work together, respecting their mutual roles as equal partners on the child's educational team, then conferencing and communication will become easier.

New Water Faucets Installed in Hallway Sinks

Our new touchless water faucets have finally been installed in the wash basins in the two main hallways. These new faucets are working well, and it is hoped that they will help cut down on disease transmission in the washing areas. The new faucets also waste less water than the old push button faucets. They are certainly a big hit with the students!



Ethan H. tries out the new touchless water faucets in the south hallway sinks. The touchless faucets were installed in both the north and south hallway bathrooms.

Fine Arts Boosters Pizza Sales Started September 17th!

This is just a reminder that Pizza Sales for the Fine Arts Boosters started on Thursday, September 17th.

Members of the High School and Elementary Bands and Choirs will be selling Club's Choice Food Items through October 1st. If no one contacts you, you may call Ms. Murphy or Mrs. McCreight at school, (782-3535). Please remember, the money is to be collected at the time of the sale.



Spirit Week Activities

Next week is Homecoming Week at Palmyra High School. We will be following along with Spirit Week Activities here at Bennet. Here is a rundown of each day's theme.

Monday - Pajama day - Must use common sense.

Tuesday - Wild West Day - No Toy Guns, knives, or Bows and arrows please!

Wednesday - Color Day! - K.G. White, First grade- orange, Second grade- Red, Third grade-Blue, Fourth grade-Black, Fifth grade- Yellow, Sixth grade- Pink.

Thursday - Spirit Day - Wear Red, White and Blue. (Ele. Picture Day)

Friday - Character Day - Dress as one of your favorite characters.