

Welcome 2011-12 Kindergarten Parents!

Tonight we welcome you to our school and look forward to working in partnership with you for the next six years. We have a great school and we want to include you in what we have going here. Our goal tonight is to help you understand a little more about our school, and what you can do to support your child, get involved, connect with other parents, and make a difference.

Kevin Milner, Principal

Pam Mears, Lead Teacher

Jennifer Bass, Counselor

Crater Elementary Academic Program:

Crater has a very strong academic program. We are focused on providing a strong foundation for our students in the basic skill areas of reading, writing and math. In addition, we strive to do what is needed in order to support students rate and level of learning. Two questions our staff works to address are:

- How can we support students that already know the standards?
- How can we support students that struggle to master the standards?

Parents and volunteers play a huge role in helping to support students in the classroom in both of these areas.

Attendance:

Coming to school each day is very important. Research studies have shown that there is a powerful link between successful learning and regular school attendance.

Why regular school attendance matters:

- Key academic concepts are being covered everyday.
- Time on task every day is needed to learn basic academics.
- Students need to learn to read well to be able to learn their other subjects.
- One missed day of school = as many as three days of catch up for a child to learn all the missed information and skills- there is no easy way to make up for the instruction.
- The habit of going to school is like learning to go to work - it's a child's job, and this habit of responsibility can carry over to adulthood.
- School attendance lays the foundation for whether children will graduate or drop-out from high school.

Getting Involved:

Decades of research show that when parents are involved students have:

- Higher grades, test scores, and graduation rates
- Better school attendance
- Increased motivation, better self-esteem
- Lower rates of suspension
- Decreased use of drugs and alcohol
- Fewer instances of violent behavior

Parents can get involved at several different levels:

- PARENTING: Help to establish a home environment and routine to support your child as a student.
- COMMUNICATING: Design effective forms of school-to-home and home-to-school communication about school programs and childrens' progress. Attend parent conferences. Stay informed and be aware of regular schedule of useful notices, memos, phone calls, newsletters, and other communications.
- VOLUNTEERING: Volunteer in the classroom, support school events, or provide support for the classroom by working from home. Whatever your time allows- we need your support.
- LEARNING AT HOME: Support what is happening in the classroom by reading, visiting and discussing what students are studying. Help with projects by helping your child to research, visit the library, or travel to a museum. Not only will you support your child's learning, you will get to spend valuable time with them.
- DECISION MAKING: Be an active part of our PTO (Parent-Teacher Organization). Our PTO is a valuable part of the Crater Community. Parents have a voice in their child's education and being involved helps parents' voices to be heard.

Thank you for taking the time to find out more about our school. If you have any questions, or need more information, please do not hesitate to call, or drop in.

- **School Office: 503-554-4650**