

Engaging Families in Rooms

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Class Info

Your Class Info section should provide a warm welcome to families. This is a space to share a little bit about who you are and what your class is about. Consider including a link to your syllabus and other helpful information such as time and days of the week when you meet. You'll only need to set up your class info once a quarter or semester. Here are a few things you can share in the Class Info section:

- How long you have been with the district and your professional background.
- What you like to do outside of class and a bit about your "personal brand"
- Why you love to teach and a little bit about your teaching style. Share your classroom theme!
- Ask families to share some introductory information about themselves in a message. This invites parents to get the conversation started.

A goal to strive for:

Let your personality show and write a message that sounds like you in this section.

Class Info example

Hello! I'm Mr. Williams and am looking forward to meeting you and your students. This is my fifth year teaching 3rd grade here. This year we'll focus heavily on math, reading comprehension and writing. I will need your help along the way and am looking forward to working together to give your student the best year possible.

Messages

Two-way communication fosters relationship building and opens the door for feedback and collaboration between the classroom and home. We've made it simple for you to send messages

to families from your desktop or to share a message quickly, on the go with the Thrillshare mobile app. Parents and guardians can read these messages on their phone using our district's app or on desktop.

Individual Messages

Parent-teacher communication can be uniquely personal. You can send a message to a parent or guardian to discuss something specific about their student. For families that prefer audio messages, you can type a message or leave a voice note.

A goal to strive for:

Send one individual message home each week, especially at the start of the year to fast track relationship building with your students and families.

What you need to know about Messages

- Individual messages can be one-to-one or they can be a small group (e.g. two parents, or students and guardians together).
- Your recipient can reply to your message. In a group message, everyone in the group can see each other's messages and reply. Parents, guardians, and students are not allowed to start group messages, however. Only teachers and staff can start group messages.
- Messages can be reported in the case of inappropriate content or concerning information that needs to be shared with administrators.

Message examples

"Nick did great on his spelling test this week! I can tell you're working with him at home and I wanted you to know that it is showing up in the classroom!"

"A quick reminder to have James bring his Chromebook back with him to class tomorrow. We'll be using it for a new unit!"

"I wanted to let you know that Mia was selected for Kids with Character for demonstrating respect. There will be an award ceremony next Tuesday! Have a great weekend."

Broadcast Messages

Broadcast Messages allow you to write a message and send it to many individuals at once. Replies to broadcasts are returned as an individual message so you can continue the conversation privately, if needed.

A goal to strive for:

Save time by using broadcast Messaging for your next parent-teacher conference or when asking for help sourcing supplies for your class.

What you need to know about Broadcast Messages

- Broadcast Messages are an easy way to share information broadly with parents and guardians (e.g. documents, links, or action items).
- When you send a broadcast, recipients can reply to you and only you.
- You can hand-select who will receive a Broadcast Message. Send your message to an entire class or selected individuals within a class.

Broadcast Message example

"The yearbook team is looking for photos for our class page. If you have any photos that you took at school during our events, please reply back with a photo or two! Thank you!"

Announcements

Announcements create a post in your class stream. Use announcements to share information that is relevant to everyone in your class and does not require a response. Announcements are also a great way to show off what has been happening in the class and see photos and what makes your classes special.

A goal to strive for:

Share an announcement once or twice a week to share something positive and exciting that happened in your class. This helps families feel connected and engaged with a few of the great moments that happen in your class all the time!

What you need to know about Announcements

- Announcements are 'read-only' and are best for sharing materials and documents that do not need a response.
- Guardians will see announcements in the Class Stream section (not Messages).

Announcements examples

"This is what we're focusing on this week in Algebra. Please click the links for additional resources to support your student."

"Remember that we have a class field trip coming up next Friday. Students will need to pack a lunch with them or come prepared with cash to buy lunch."