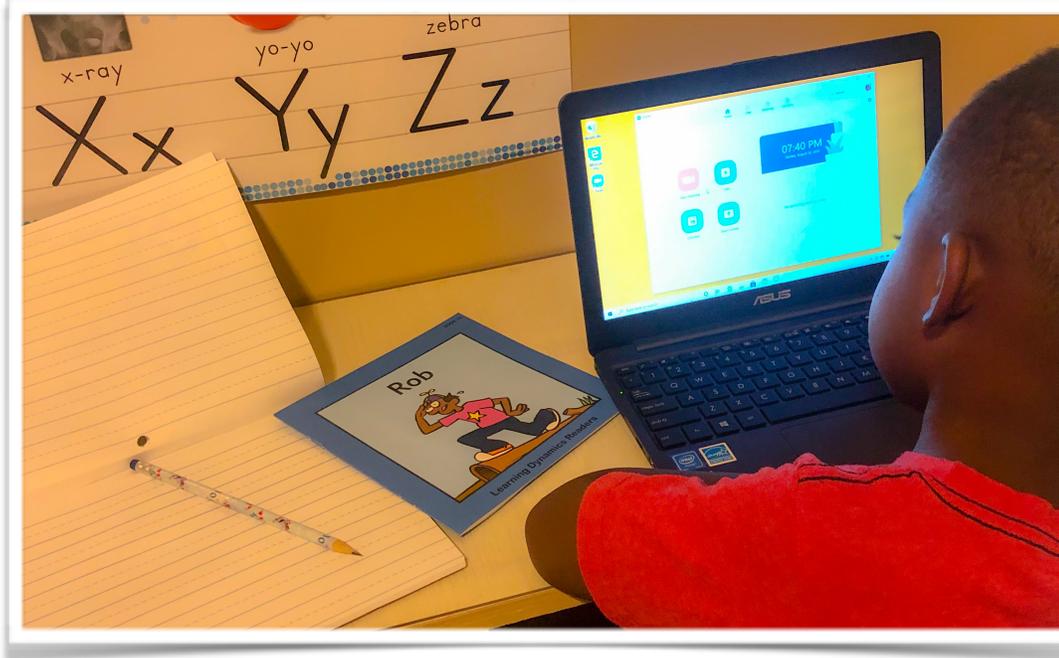


Newsletter

Parent-Teacher-School Partnerships



Virtual Learning: Navigating the Ups and Downs

Simply put, the virtual learning struggle is REAL! Even with its challenges, we have some tips that can make things a bit easier! The truth is, virtual learning is uncharted territory for everyone involved, students, parents, teachers and administrators. Three simple tips for parents **and** teachers:

1
"THANK YOU"
 Gratitude effects your attitude. Saying these two simple words mean a lot!

2
COMMUNICATE
 Don't hesitate to ask questions and share information regularly.

3
STAY POSITIVE
 Wipe the slate clean everyday and approach virtual learning with an open mind.



IEPs
 If your child has an IEP for special education services, contact the school to determine how services are being implemented for your child. Ask for a copy of your child's IEP if you do not have one.



Quiet Learning Spaces
 Computer microphones amplify background noise. Quiet learning spaces help teachers teach and students learn on virtual platforms.

Family-Teacher-School Partnerships

Communication between schools and families is even **more** important in virtual learning platforms

With virtual learning, communication between school and home looks very different from past school years. With in-person contact being limited, its easier for important information and updates to get lost in the shuffle. Let's face it, we're all busy and for some, virtual learning is draining our fountain of patience and empathy. However, in order to maximize student learning, parents and teachers must function as a **team** with open streams of communication. Teams function best when matched contributions are present; meaning that team member responsibilities are equally shared. With school communication, parents and teachers share the responsibility for exchanging information, asking for updates, and expressing concerns.

As the old adage goes, "**Teamwork makes the dreamwork!**" For example, parents appreciate



when teachers communicate praise for their child rather than primarily sharing news about poor behavior. Conversely, teachers appreciate when parents contact them with supportive and constructive comments rather than criticism about job performance. Great communication, with a teamwork approach, can make the difference between an average school year and an amazing school year!

Three tips for parents:

1. Email your child's teacher to introduce yourself
2. Set a monthly reminder to call/email your child's teacher for an update on their progress
3. Ask how you can support your child's learning at home

MEET THE AUTHOR:

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Dr. Williams received her PhD from George Mason University in Fairfax, VA. Her areas of focus are Multilingual/Multicultural Education and Early Childhood Education. For 14 years, Dr. Williams has served as a licensed Speech-Language Pathologist, seeing educational partnerships firsthand. Dr. Williams is passionate about the ongoing, goal-directed partnerships between teachers and families. She believes that these partnerships must be culturally responsive and support what is best for children and families both individually and collectively.



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