

## 4 Proven And Practical Parent Pleasers

We can bemoan it all we want, but parental support isn't a given anymore. All complaining aside, the purpose of this Special Report is to present 4 practical things you can do right now to effectively communicate with parents on the progress of their child in your classroom, good or bad.

Implement all 4 of these strategies and you will no longer feel awkward or like you're in "reactive mode" with parents.

### **\*1. Send a letter home after 2 missing assignments\***

"I wish I knew my child was missing this work". It's that statement that caused me to come up with this letter. Because they're right, they *should* have known, but the bottom line is they didn't.

All this involves is sending a letter to the parent of students who are missing two assignments. Why two? Well, nobody's perfect (including us), so we can tolerate one missing assignment. Three is too many, because by then it's easier to quit with all that work missing.

Here's how it works: Once a week, go through your grade book and see who's missing what. If they're missing two (or more) assignments, mail home the letter included on the last page of this document.

It will take you about 30 minutes per week to go through your grade book, fill in the blanks on the letters, and address the envelopes. We know that's a lot of time. But think about what you get in return- missing work getting turned in, a sudden renewal of interest and focus, and not having to chase after students for their work. And now parents can't say "I wish I knew".

For best results this needs to be done weekly. Two weeks is long enough for a student to go from 1 to 4 missing things.

Also, make students aware of the letter. Knowing a letter's going home after 2 assignments is a huge motivation! Some will become quite nervous after they've missed their first. That's good, and that's exactly what you want.

Interested? Try it for a quarter and see how it goes.

So how does this help with parent relations? Most parents want to know, good or bad, how things are going with their child. They appreciate the early notification