

## Keys to Communication & Success in CGS

**Below, you will find 7 helpful keys to communication and success for parents of a CGS student.**



1. Talk to your student about their day and ask them specifics such as “how was your math quiz?” or “what was the most interesting thing on your field experience”. At this age, you have to prompt your son/daughter and not accept a response like, “school was ok” or “fine”.
2. This is a new working environment for your student. Many students will be challenged for the first time in their academic lives. For some, this is the first time they will have homework that takes more than 10 minutes to complete. If you wonder whether your student has homework, chances are your student will have homework nightly so it’s important for you to stay abreast of the assignments and the due dates. The best way to do this is to check Blackboard.
3. This year will be a learning year for you and your family. You and your student may encounter exhilaration, tears, frustration, fatigue, and some “teachable moments”. If your child encounters challenges or a disappointing period in school such as low grade, do not let them give up. CGS can be tough but it is a fostering learning environment. We help students cope with adversity and we want them to be humble to situations they find easy. Those coping skills will help them prepare for life’s challenges.
4. If you have questions or concerns about something that is occurring related to CGS whether that is homework, course expectations, a class, or even if it is socially connected to CGS, PLEASE contact your child’s CGS site. The teachers are the first line of communication. Email is the best form of communication because the teachers are very busy with main school responsibilities and CGS courses as well as outside activities. They will respond to you within 48 hours during the work week. If you do not hear from them, please call the CGS office or the school and you will be connected.

5. Frequently check the website for announcements and upcoming activities. This is the way CGS can communicate with you.
6. Play an active role as a CGS parent. The program is successful due to your students' diligence and your support. Volunteer with PTO, sign up to chaperone an activity or a field experience, and ask your site if they need your help.
7. Play an active role as a gifted parent. Check out the CGS Community Blog ([www.cgscommunity.wordpress.com](http://www.cgscommunity.wordpress.com)); participate in the CGS Advisory Committee, or the Friends of VA Governor's Schools advocacy group. For more CGS news, "like" CGS on the CGS Facebook page, follow us on Twitter, or frequently check the CGS website at <http://www.cgs.k12.va.us>. Your support will nurture this program and the sustainability of CGS in the future.

