

Plan to talk with your student about his/her academic progress and future plans beyond high school.

Ask questions about their day. What was stressful and successful during their school day.

Realize your student's hopes and dreams. Help them turn those dreams into reality.

Engage yourself in your student's interests and school work. Show excitement in what they are learning and have them teach you.

Nurture their interest for learning and expand their futures by discussing different options after high school.

Talk with and listen to your student. Talking helps open the communication between you and your student.

Introduce your student to resources in the community. Take them on college visits.

Never close the communication with you and your child. Help them realize what they learn in school is useful in the real world.

Give praise for our student's accomplishments. Compliment your student for effort and progress.

This material is provided by the School Administrators of Iowa
AEA Education Agency 267
Iowa Department of Education
Tri County Child and Family
In cooperation with the
Elementary Education Committee of Cedar Valley's Promise
And the Waterloo Community Schools.
Visit our websites at:
www.iowaparents.org
www.cedarvalleypromise.org
www.waterloo.k12.ia.us

Questions

To ask your kids after,
"How was school today?"



WATERLOO
Community School District

Engaged in Learning • Prepared for Success



Cedar Valley's Promise
"Uniting for the love of our Children."
Mentor Protect Nurture Teach Serve

Parents want their children to be successful and research indicates that their involvement makes a difference. These questions are intended to help start conversations that will strengthen family connections and support success in school. Don't feel you have to ask every question in the book. Browse through and select the ones that are most appropriate for the age of your child and the time available to engage in conversation. Questions are also suited for telephone and e-mail conversations if you are away from your child or grandchild. Or consider asking your child to select a questions from the book for both of you to answer. The possibilities are endless and the results are priceless!



WATERLOO
Community School District

Engaged in Learning ● Prepared for Success

Waterloo Community Schools Mission:
The Waterloo Schools community commits to a comprehensive system of education and support to assure that each and every student will graduate prepared for college, career, and citizenship as evidenced by continuing education, pursuing a career path, and contributing to a community.

Strategic Focus Areas:

- *Student Achievement and Development
- *Financial Sustainability & Operational Excellence
- *Human Assets
- *Community Engagement
- *Climate for Learning

As you look back on high school, what piece of advice would you give to a freshman/younger sibling to help him/her be successful?



What are you thinking you would like to do when you graduate from high school?

If you could visit any two colleges, where would you want to go and why?

What is the most important aspect a college needs to have for you to apply?



What would you like to tell me about school today?

What was the funniest thing that happened at school today?

What was the most interesting thing you learned?

How important is winning? Is it ever o.k. to cheat to win or do better on something?



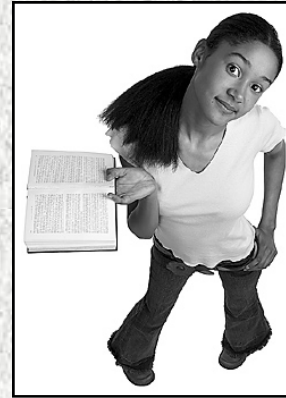
What did you learn that you can use right away?

What did you learn today that you can apply to a job?



What was your easiest class today?

What was your most difficult class today?



Have you started looking into financial planning for college?

What classes are required for graduation? How many of these required classes have you completed? What do you still need to finish?

What class that you have taken or will take do you think will be the most useful to you in the future? Why/How?

What are you most proud of having done at school so far?





What did you have for lunch today?
What is your favorite school meal?

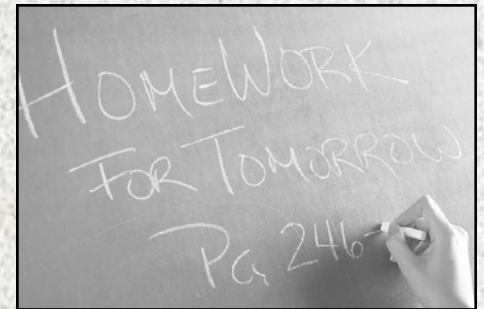
How is lunch different in high school than in the middle school?
Is it better?

Do you feel challenged at school? Why or why not?

How do you feel you are doing in school? What can I do to help you achieve more?



Who is your favorite teacher or staff member?
What makes this person special?



If you were a teacher, what would you do differently?
What would you keep the same?

Would you rather have a strict teacher who was fair and taught you a lot or one who was relaxed and fun but didn't teach you much? Why?



If you could have one class be longer, Which class would it be?

What would you say about yourself as a learner?



What helps you learn?

What makes it difficult for you to learn?

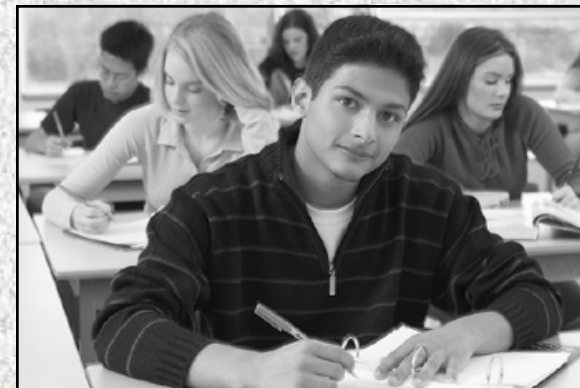
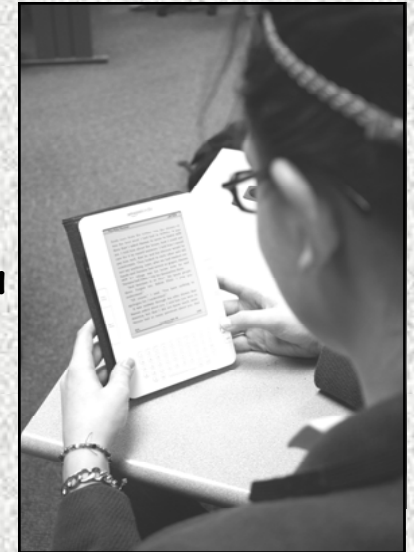
What strategies do you use when something is difficult to learn?



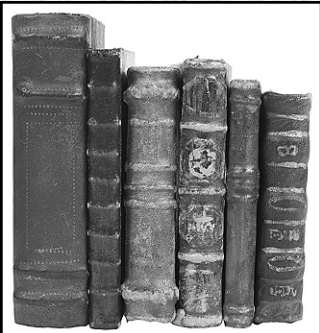
**What are you currently reading (for school or pleasure)?
Tell me about it.**

**What one book/magazine would you like to read?
Why?**

What is your favorite class this year? Why?



What classes do you plan to take next year?



How would your teachers describe your personality?

How important are tests like ITED, Explore, Plan, compass, etc.? What tests did you/do you have to take this year? How will your scores be used to help you plan for the future?

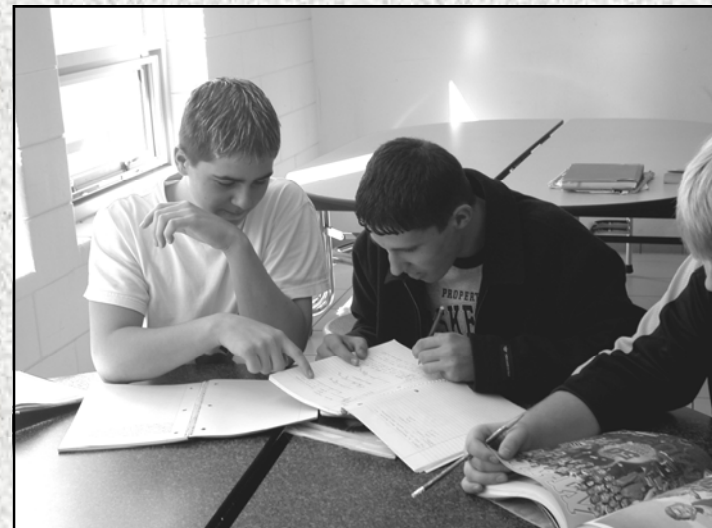
Do you think there is a better way to measure student achievement than by taking tests such as ITED, Explore, Plan, Compass, Etc.?



What do you like most/least about your classes? Why?

What is the biggest difference between middle school and high school?

What do you like that is different now in high school?



What do you think will be the biggest difference between life as a teenager and life as an adult?

If you became a teacher, what subject would you teach? Why?

Are there any extracurricular activities you enjoy doing after school?

Are you feeling pressured or stressed at school? How can I help you?

Do you feel confident with your schoolwork? How can I help you succeed?



Can you find everything you need at school? Are you finding your classrooms etc.?

What traits make a good friend?



Do you have any classes with your friends?

What is the most important thing about life that you've learned in school so far?



classes alright?

Do you need help becoming organized? Are you handling all of your