



WALNUT AVENUE SCHOOL  
Cranford, New Jersey



# CAN WE TALK?

## Communication Between School and Home

Two-way communication between the school and home is an essential part of any successful school. We, at Walnut Avenue School, know this to be true and want all parents to feel free to ask questions and get involved in their child's education. Parent/ Teacher conferences are a vital part of the educational process and we are committed to making ourselves accessible to hear your concerns and share your impressions of your child's experience at school. For this reason, all classroom teachers are required to attempt to schedule at least two formal conferences to discuss student goals and progress. These conferences generally take place in November and April. The conferences are usually conducted during the school day and substitutes are secured to cover classes during the conference period.

The primary focus of the November (Fall) conference is the gathering of data regarding the student's strengths and interests. Teachers also utilize this conference to communicate their goals and expectations for students during the upcoming school year.

The primary focus of the April (Spring) conference is the reviewing of student progress for the preceding three quarters. Use of the student portfolio is highly recommended as a means of illustrating student achievement and progress and its contents are often shared with the parent at this time.

In addition to these formal/ required conferences, parents should feel free to request time to speak to a teacher anytime they feel the need. Indeed, they are encouraged to do so. Many times, a small problem can be kept from becoming a major one when parents and teachers exchange information in a free and positive manner.

So how do you get in touch with your child's teacher? The teachers at Walnut Avenue School are very busy people but they are never too busy to talk to parents. While we are not averse to the informal conference in the hallway before or after school, this is often not the best way to discuss certain issues. A little advance notice is always preferable and helps contribute to a more relaxed and thoughtful discussion of the question at hand. **While all of our teachers have access to e-mail and voice mail, the preferred method of requesting a conference at our school is by way of a simple note sent to school with your child.** Additional conferences can always be scheduled before and after school and teachers are also open to telephone conferences if and when these are more convenient. Parents should also feel free to call the main office anytime they have a question or need to contact a teacher. In each situation we will make every attempt to respond to your requests in a prompt, courteous and professional manner.

We honestly want to be partners in your child's education. Help us keep the lines of communication open so that our school can continue to be an exciting place for children to learn and grow.

For your convenience, e-mail addresses for all Walnut Avenue School staff are posted below. Although most staff members check their e-mail on a regular basis, you should never hesitate to follow up with a note or a phone call if you do not get a response to an e-mail in a reasonable amount of time.

Heather Austin	<a href="mailto:austin@cranfordschools.org">austin@cranfordschools.org</a>
Claire Bennett	<a href="mailto:bennett@cranfordschools.org">bennett@cranfordschools.org</a>
Alison Bielinski	<a href="mailto:bielinski@cranfordschools.org">bielinski@cranfordschools.org</a>
Joann Cheeka	<a href="mailto:cheekajo@cranfordschools.org">cheekajo@cranfordschools.org</a>
Denise Chmieleski	<a href="mailto:chmieles@cranfordschools.org">chmieles@cranfordschools.org</a>
Joan Crincoli	<a href="mailto:crincoli@cranfordschools.org">crincoli@cranfordschools.org</a>
Debby DeCotiis	<a href="mailto:decotiis@cranfordschools.org">decotiis@cranfordschools.org</a>
Gina DiFabio	<a href="mailto:difabio@cranfordschools.org">difabio@cranfordschools.org</a>
Laura Edwards	<a href="mailto:edwardsl@cranfordschools.org">edwardsl@cranfordschools.org</a>
James Farrell	<a href="mailto:farrellj@cranfordschools.org">farrellj@cranfordschools.org</a>
Kathleen Garguilo	<a href="mailto:garguilo@cranfordschools.org">garguilo@cranfordschools.org</a>
Donna Kull	<a href="mailto:kulldonn@cranfordschools.org">kulldonn@cranfordschools.org</a>
Athena Lima	<a href="mailto:limaathe@cranfordschools.org">limaathe@cranfordschools.org</a>
Samantha Longo	<a href="mailto:longosam@cranfordschools.org">longosam@cranfordschools.org</a>
Jodi McCabe	<a href="mailto:mccabejo@cranfordschools.org">mccabejo@cranfordschools.org</a>
Judy Grogan	<a href="mailto:grogan@cranfordschools.org">grogan@cranfordschools.org</a>
Susan McCarthy	<a href="mailto:mccarths@cranfordschools.org">mccarths@cranfordschools.org</a>
Katherine Morris	<a href="mailto:morris@cranfordschools.org">morris@cranfordschools.org</a>
Marilyn Nasta	<a href="mailto:nastamar@cranfordschools.org">nastamar@cranfordschools.org</a>
Kandace Nielwocki	<a href="mailto:nieliwoc@cranfordschools.org">nieliwoc@cranfordschools.org</a>
Angelo Paternoster	<a href="mailto:paternos@cranfordschools.org">paternos@cranfordschools.org</a>
Maureen Rapach	<a href="mailto:rapach@cranfordschools.org">rapach@cranfordschools.org</a>
Annette Ritzer	<a href="mailto:ritzeran@cranfordschools.org">ritzeran@cranfordschools.org</a>
Susan Stein	<a href="mailto:steinsus@cranfordschools.org">steinsus@cranfordschools.org</a>
Wendy Tucker	<a href="mailto:tuckerwe@cranfordschools.org">tuckerwe@cranfordschools.org</a>
Ann Hamilton Winn	<a href="mailto:winn@cranfordschools.org">winn@cranfordschools.org</a>
Leesa Barenboim	<a href="mailto:barenboi@cranfordschools.org">barenboi@cranfordschools.org</a>
JoAnn Jackson	<a href="mailto:jacksonj@cranfordschools.org">jacksonj@cranfordschools.org</a>
Alyson Schultz	<a href="mailto:alyson.schultz@cranfordschools.org">alyson.schultz@cranfordschools.org</a>
Maureen Scepkowski	<a href="mailto:scepkowski@cranfordschools.org">scepkowski@cranfordschools.org</a>
Melissa Lattig	<a href="mailto:lattig@cranfordschools.org">lattig@cranfordschools.org</a>
Mary Purcell	<a href="mailto:purcellm@cranfordschools.org">purcellm@cranfordschools.org</a>
Clare Pisapia	<a href="mailto:pisapia@cranfordschools.org">pisapia@cranfordschools.org</a>
Angela Glynn	<a href="mailto:glynn@cranfordschools.org">glynn@cranfordschools.org</a>