

Oro Grande Parents!

Think of the possibilities if we all performed at least 5 of the 10 requests exceptionally well. As I see it, we NEED all ten from everyone. Will you give us five?

1. **Write** a letter to your child's new teacher. This is a great opportunity to share something(s) they may need to know. Knowledge is power! Some ideas: what has worked in the past, what they like about school, areas of strength, areas of improvement, and how you can support/best be reached, etc. Most of all, let your child's teacher know how much you love your child and what your commitment level is to this year being an absolute home run. Just ideas! Get the letter to your child's teacher in the first two weeks. Reach out and hand deliver!
2. Commit to being tremendously and relentlessly **engaged** in your child's academic experience. Ask them what they liked and learned at school—each day. I get it, some days I come home from work totally wiped out too. Create the routine and it might come become natural. Encourage them to put “miles on their tongue” talking about academic content. You will assist in their processing and recall skills, both critical to learning.
3. The elusive but worthwhile “R” word—**Routine!** Research connects sleep, play, water, stability, and healthy eating to student achievement. Establish a routine and make the great attempt to stick to it. If you get off track, recommit! Set them up for success at school.
4. **Positive energy.** Provide tons of positive reinforcement to your child. Scan for the positive in what seems like a world that dwells on the negative. If something negative needs to be addressed, be constructive and solution-oriented so we can get back on track. If you feel like you are out of solutions at home, give us a call. We can help.
5. **Box tops**, box tops, and more box tops! Create a social network of friends, relatives, colleagues and send Oro Grande your box tops! Every box top is a dime for our school. The money is out there, we just need to be creative and collaborative in finding treasure. The money goes to PTAC, which in turn helps us pay for things that impact student achievement.
6. Attend at least 1 **PTAC** meeting. I met with a member of the PTAC this summer for an hour. I can tell you that after one hour, I not only walked away energized, but a better parent as I was reminded of an idea that worked great with my five year old son. PTAC is used to having the same 5-6 faces routinely. Imagine the power of the same 50-60 routinely? Amp up our school through positive parent energy and support.
7. Support **Oro Grande** through the Arizona State **Tax CREDIT!** Keep your tax dollars in Lake Havasu City. **Up to 200.00** if single, **400.00** if married, and it's a tax credit vs. a write off! Maybe you can't right now but know somebody in Arizona who can! I sponsor a high school student-athlete for half of her participation fee. In return, I breathe easier during tax season. WIN-WIN.
8. Oro Grande will be celebrating its **30th birthday** on February 16, 2012. Please join us as we gather together to **celebrate** an enormous birthday bash. History will be made as we dig up a time capsule from 1982 (if we can find it). More information to come.
9. **Model and talk** about how you use math, reading, and writing daily in your life. For example, take the time to create the grocery list with your child, cut the coupons together, read together. There are teachable moments around every corner and those experiences at home strengthen the learning at school. Strengthen the partnership by modeling and sharing your knowledge and wisdom with your child. Talk “up” the importance of school and life-long learning. Our teachers' rock, but you're the role model. **YOU are your child's most important teacher.**
10. Commit to incredible **student attendance** but keep your child home when they are legitimately contagious. You simply can't put a price tag on the importance of attendance and its impact on student learning. We need your child at Oro Grande every day.