

CLASSROOM
PARENTS TOGETHER



ParentsTogether Classroom Toolkit for School Leaders

ParentsTogether Classroom makes it easy to connect with other parents in your child's class to share resources and support. We believe that parents are each other's best resource and want to strengthen communities and build deep, long-lasting relationships between parents.

To begin to build these connections, ParentsTogether works with school leaders to set up and maintain closed classroom groups on Facebook. In these groups parents can share:

- Ideas on how to help with homework
- Information about school events
- Resources like carpooling and uniform trades
- Volunteer recruitment opportunities
- Updates on issues affecting local schools
- And much more -- the possibilities are endless!


ParentsTogether Classroom allows parents to connect more intimately than a typical school listserv. Plus, it has some great features. With this tool, parents can:

- See pictures of the other parents in their child's class and finally connect faces with names and children.
- Post on the group's wall and send a message to every other parent in the classroom.
- Receive important school and classroom information in their Facebook feed.
- Send private messages to individual parents.
- Ask questions and poll the entire classroom.
- Receive ParentsTogether Classroom emails and/or push notifications on their phones (depending on settings).
- Create and manage events.
- Upload files to the group.

This toolkit has everything you need to get a **ParentsTogether Classroom** group started. Join the parent conversation!

Here's how **ParentsTogether Classroom** works:


ParentsTogether works with a parent lead (often the room parent) to set up a closed Facebook group for the classroom.



With assistance from ParentsTogether, the parent lead invites all of the other parents in their child's class.



ParentsTogether provides the parent lead with tools to spark conversations and get parents excited about connecting more with each other.



The parent lead monitors the group and ParentsTogether continues to provide ongoing information and support.

How ParentsTogether Helps You

Initial Group Setup

To get started, all you need to do is provide ParentsTogether with your email address and the name of the group. We suggest you use the teacher's name and grade level (i.e. Ms. Johnson's Kindergarten Class). ParentsTogether creates a group for your classroom and makes you an administrator. You will receive an email inviting you to join the group. In order to participate, you must have a Facebook account. Once you've joined, ParentsTogether works with you to write a group description and set up group guidelines.

Inviting Parents to Join

You can invite other parents to join by clicking the "Invite by email" link on the sidebar of the group and inputting the email addresses of all the parents in your classroom. Parents will receive an email from you indicating that you've invited them to join the ParentsTogether Classroom group. All they have to do is click "Join Group" right on the email to become part of the group. ParentsTogether will even provide you with an additional email you can send to parents with more information about the benefits of the group.

Sparking the Conversation

Once parents have joined the group, ParentsTogether will provide you with prompts and ideas to get the conversation started. We recommend that you post something on the group's wall at least once a week.

Ongoing Responsibilities and Support

ParentsTogether will provide you with ongoing support and relevant information about issues affecting education and schools. As a group administrator, your role is to make sure community standards are followed and the group's tone remains constructive. You have the ability to remove members or content if necessary.

Frequently Asked Questions

How does this work with our existing school listserv?

A school-wide listserv is great; this program gives parents a conversation tool at the classroom level. Group administrators can remind parents to post school-wide issues to the general listserv.

What about the privacy of our families?

Everyone gets to choose whether to join the classroom group. Parents will be invited to join via e-mail, so participation is "opt in." Members of the same group can see each other's public profiles but are unable to access private information unless they are "friends." ParentsTogether Classroom groups are "Closed." This means that only members can see what's being posted to the group.

Who can join the group?

Parents can only join the group if they are invited or approved by the group's administrator.

What if parents aren't on Facebook?

We know that parents have different levels of Facebook usage. Some prefer not to use it, and some don't have access to the technology to be a regular visitor. While Facebook may not be the right tool for all parents, it gives room parents, teachers, and parent leaders another tool in their toolkit for reaching and engaging families.



About ParentsTogether

ParentsTogether connects parents with other parents to share resources and support. We know that by joining together, parents not only make each other's lives easier, but they can be a powerful force for policy change that impacts all families— taking on issues like parental leave, childcare, and public education. We are building the first national parent membership organization, uniting tens of millions of families to build a stronger future for everyone.

At **ParentsTogether**, four core beliefs drive our work:

Parents are each other's best resources. There is always another parent who's been there before and might be able to help— no parent should have to go it alone.

Connecting parents lightens the load for everyone. Our central role as a national membership association is to make it easier for parents to find each other, build trusted relationships, and support one another.

Parents have a lot of economic power. And we need to use all of that spending power! Joining together nationally gives us the opportunity to negotiate deals and discounts that benefit everyone's bottom line.

Together, parents are an unstoppable force for change. Joining together, we have the power to create big shifts in the systems that make it so hard to raise a family in the US – starting with unpaid maternity leave all the way up to the high costs of college.

ParentsTogether Classroom is our first pilot program in North Carolina. Our goal is to connect thousands of elementary school parents to start laying the foundation for a groundswell of parent connections nationwide.

Join us!



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