

The Home-School Partnership

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It has been four years since I wrote a short letter to all Holland Hall Upper School families entitled *The Home-School Partnership*. Since that time, I have shared that letter with every new family in the Upper School as we go through the enrollment process during the summer months. My explanation to new families for writing the letter and sharing it with them always involves a story about our Commencement ceremony in May of each year. I explain that there is often a graduating senior about whom I have serious concerns - not because of his/her poor academic performance in the Upper School, but because of my concern that the student had not learned how to solve problems, deal with adversity, and rebound from failures and disappointments. I worried that the student was not sufficiently prepared to handle life on his/her own in college. I continue to believe that a strong home-school partnership is crucial to the academic and personal success we hope every student will enjoy today and in the future. I hope the letter will be helpful to all Upper School families as we all try to raise and educate students who are well-prepared to handle life on their own.

The Home-School Partnership

It is our goal in the Upper School to establish a strong and positive home-school partnership with every parent in the school community. Because we are a college preparatory school, not only do we set our academic standards at a high level, but we expect our students in the Upper School to develop maturity and independence as learners as well. It is our belief that students will gain the most benefit from their Holland Hall education when parents are involved in the educational process in meaningful and appropriate ways.

We hope you will support your sons and daughters by:

- Setting realistic standards for their performance in every area of school life;
- Encouraging their interest and involvement in the life of the school outside the classroom;
- Encouraging your son or daughter to monitor his/her own progress in every class;
- Allowing your son or daughter the opportunity to attempt to solve problems and handle difficult issues at school with parental support and without parental intervention;
- Contacting the advisor if your child's attempts at problem resolution have been unsuccessful or if you have information the advisor should know about your son or daughter.

It is our pledge to:

- Return graded work in a timely manner and keep your son or daughter informed about the quality of his/her academic work;
- Write informative and meaningful comments at the designated times during the school year;
- Keep your child's advisor informed about academic progress and share concerns when appropriate.