

## Appendix A2

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# GETTING TO KNOW OUR PARENTS

Dear Parents,

As all of us plan for the coming school year, we would like to connect with you on an individual basis and learn more about your family and your goals for your children. Too often, parents and teachers assume they agree on goals and how to reach them, only to learn, when a problem arises, that they might not be in agreement after all. We ask you to share a little about your beliefs about your children's needs and your role in supporting them. This information, supplemented, we hope, by excellent family-school communications throughout the school year, will benefit our students and all the adults who care for them.

### **ABOUT YOUR BELIEFS**

1. What does your child (children) need from you to become a good and successful person? Be as specific as you can.
2. What do you look to the school to provide your child (children) to help her or him become a good and successful person?
3. Is it important to you and your child (children) to have time to play? To have unstructured time?

## 2 DEVELOPING CARING RELATIONSHIPS

4. How have you found that your child (children) learns best? Give examples.
5. Do you think your child (children) needs homework? If so, why? If not, why not?

### **ABOUT YOUR GOALS**

6. What characteristics or attributes do you want your child (children) to have at age 18?
7. Do you have family traditions and rituals you hope your child (children) will continue? If so, please describe them.

### **ABOUT PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIPS**

8. How do you and everyone in your family who cares for your child (children) view your child's (children's) questioning of rules or asking for explanations of them?
9. How often do you think or worry about the environments your child (children) inhabits? Please answer: 3 (very often), 2 (often), or 1 (not often)

\_\_\_\_\_ Home  
\_\_\_\_\_ School  
\_\_\_\_\_ Peers  
\_\_\_\_\_ Neighborhood  
\_\_\_\_\_ Society

Please add anything you would like to share about your child (children), her or his educational needs, or your family that you think would help us better collaborate in the coming year. Please use the reverse side if you need more space to answer these questions.