

Ah, September! We're back to school, back to homework, and back to the morning rush. With all the preparation for school, weekend sporting events, or just the general effort to get back into the groove, it is easy to forget to talk with each other. Keeping the lines of communication open to the best of your ability is crucial to student success socially, emotionally, and academically. Frequently adults hear the same responses from their student: How was school? *Fine*. What did you do today? *Nothing*. While this may be frustrating, sometimes we, the adults, are just not asking the right question.

Here are five great questions which may elicit a deeper response:

1. What was the best (or worst) thing that happened at school today?
2. What is one thing that happened at school today that made you laugh?
3. What was one thing that happened at school today that made you angry?
4. Which class was your favorite (or least favorite) today and why?
5. How did you feel about how the day went?

Often, it feels frustrating to hear things such as 'school is dumb,' 'I have no friends,' or 'all my classes are a waste of time.' While an adult reaction may be to correct these phrases with, 'School isn't dumb, it's important!', or 'I'm sure you have one friend,' it may be more productive to ask why the student feels this way. Asking open ended questions, such as the five listed, may lead to a great conversation and give the adult a glimpse into the youth's life they may not have had before.

Of course, observation is also a great way to catch a glimpse of student life. If you have the opportunity to register as a Dividend (https://www3.scps.k12.fl.us/secure/CommInv_Vol/Vols2003/vollogin.cfm), you may volunteer for a variety of programs and events. Help is always needed, welcomed, and appreciated. We would love to have everyone join the PTSA, Parent Teacher Student Association, because the more members we have, the more we can give back to the school; however, you do not have to be a PTSA member to be a Dividend. PTSA works hard to contribute to the overall success of South Seminole Middle School by funding teacher mini-grants, volunteering time, running the school store, and creating fun events to be enjoyed by the entire school. The cost of becoming a PTSA member is \$5; if you are interested in becoming a member please email us at ssmspta@gmail.com. SSMS PTSA information may also be found on Facebook and by email alerts at ssmspta.alerts@gmail.com.

We hope the school year is off to a great start for you and your family and thank you for your continued support of the SSMS PTSA.