



WHAT'S YOUR WHY?

A GUIDE TO BEING YOUR CHILD'S BEST ADVOCATE

DOES MY CHILD REALLY NEED THIS?

IDENTIFY YOUR CHILD'S NEEDS

- Support your child and their dreams
 - Listen to your elementary student, support them in identifying their passions
 - Celebrate your middle schooler as they learn who they are as an individual, it's scary and exciting (for you and your child!)
 - As they move into high school, recognize their goals/dreams may be different than yours

COVID FLEXIBILITY

- Remember that this year has been weird for our children and their teachers

Be flexible and grace-filled with expectations!



WHAT DO THE RULES SAY ABOUT THIS? DO I NEED THIS IN WRITING?



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Annually, review your child's Education Plan and the Procedural Safeguards

KEEP GOOD RECORDS

E-mail is a great way to keep a paper trail!

WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO?

KNOW YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

- You know your child better than anyone else – and sometimes your perspective can make all the difference
- Provide meaningful input for your child's teachers and for their EP
- Teach your child how to speak up and self-advocate (role play at home, help your child compose notes to teachers/school staff)
- Come with questions... we love to talk all things gifted!



WHO CAN HELP ME? AND WHO MAKES DECISIONS?

KNOW WHO TO CONTACT



Teacher

- Schoology
- Classwork
- Homework
- Assessments
- Recovery/remediation

Guidance Counselor

- Your child's schedule
- Graduation requirements (high school only)
- Concerns that you may have regarding your child's mental, social, and academic health

Gifted Consultative Teacher

- Educational Plan (EP) needs
- Enrichment ideas
- Concerns that you may have regarding your child's mental, social, and academic health

Administration

- School policies/procedures (DL or brick & mortar)
- COVID

DOES MY CHILD REALLY NEED THIS?

IDENTIFY YOUR CHILD'S NEEDS

- Our children are overwhelmed and stressed – celebrate your child's LITTLE and big wins!



- Help your children develop GRIT

→ Check out this [TED talk on grit](#)



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SO... WHAT'S YOUR WHY?



WHEN YOU ARE READY TO ADVOCATE, TAKE A MOMENT TO IDENTIFY WHAT YOU HOPE TO GAIN

– PLAY IT THROUGH IN YOUR HEAD –

WILL THE ANTICIPATED RESULT ACTUALLY MEET YOUR CHILD'S NEEDS?