

## **BIG IDEAS...COMMON GROUND...POSITIVE PARTNERSHIPS!**

- Focus on the needs and strengths of your child.
- Seek a "good match" for your child in school.
- Inquire before criticizing or pointing fingers.
- Stay in the conversation and allow a second chance.
- Reflect with the facts. Compromise. Follow-up regularly.
- Provide positive feedback to your child's teacher. What's working?
- Learn from the experts and share with your peers.
- Understand limitations of time, expertise, and understanding.
- Model positive communication and problem solving.
- Keep the lines of communication open between home and school.
- Value the struggle of learning, making mistakes to learn, academic rigor, and positive work ethic.
- Connect with others of like interests and involvement.
- Advocate for excellence. Keep your message productive.
- Network and share resources, event information, and committee opportunities.
- Find balance in each day.
- Seek opportunities to contribute and support learning.
- Plant a seed, share with the gatekeepers, and draft a plan.
- Celebrate serendipity.
- Educators and parents have the choice to
  - Label
  - Avoid
  - Connect
  - Encourage
  - Support
  - Involve
  - Partner
  - Build

"The critical piece is to guide this energy in a direction that will facilitate the intellectual and affective growth of gifted learners and highly able students, increase general awareness of need, encourage constructive involvement, develop effective advocates, and foster partnerships of lifelong learners."

-From Julie Gonzales (jgonzales2@cherrycreekschools.org)