



As students enter high school and become more independent, connecting with families can often become more challenging for educators. This can be very detrimental as students are facing critical issues that impact their futures. In order to work to engage families during these important times, The Classical Academy dedicates two portions of their College and Career Connections newsletter – “Post Chat” and “Table Talk” – to engaging families.

Each semester, the College and Career staff at the Academy organizes two visits to every 9th to 12th grade class to discuss and engage in activities regarding postsecondary preparation. The topics discussed are recapped in the newsletter “Post Chat” section so that families are aware of the discussions that students are having. Follow up questions are also created by the staff, and are put in the “Table Talk” section of the newsletter. These questions are intended for families to discuss at home with their students.

“Post Chat” has been a part of the newsletter for several years, and the school reports that they have seen an increase in parent participation in career and college planning with this section. “Table Talk” is a new addition to the newsletter, and was added based on feedback from parents.

Using these sections of the newsletter helps to support family-school partnerships by sharing information about student progress, and helping families to engage in classroom learning. Additionally, families are empowered to be advocates for their students with the knowledge that they gain, and by knowing how the school system works.

While The Classical Academy believes that these portions of the newsletter are a great way to gain parental interest in topics, they believe that they are only a starting point, and suggest that there is nothing better than a family meeting in order to discuss the priorities of the family!