Bishop O’Dowd High School

Guide for Parents in Addressing Academic Concerns

We know that the majority of BOD students are blessed with committed parents who try to support their children in navigating high school. Sometimes however, parents are lacking the necessary information in order to help their child. The following communication guidelines between students, parents, and teachers will contribute to the most effective problem resolution:

1 Discuss the problem with your child first.
   If you are the one who identifies what appears to be a problem, present your observations and concerns to your child, ask a few questions to gain clarity, and then LISTEN. If your child presents the problem, ask them to give you as much information as possible. In either case, help your child to develop a strategy for meeting with the teacher.

2 Encourage your student to talk with his or her teacher.
   Students need to learn how to communicate with their teachers about their own grades. This promotes dialog between the student and teacher and often provides students confidence and a sense of control over their own affairs.

3 Communicate with the teacher.
   Talking to the teacher before contacting his or her counselor might provide you with the most immediate classroom update and give you the answers that you need to solve any problems or misunderstandings. E-mail is an excellent way to contact teachers who are required to respond to parent concerns within 48 business hours.

4 Contact the department chair and/or counselor.
   Department chairs work very closely with faculty and can help mediate issues between students, parents, and teachers. Counselors serve as the advocate for your student both academically and personally. If you do not know the name of your child’s counselor, consult the Counseling link on the school website.

5 Contact the Assistant Principal
   Ms. Colette Roche (ext. 205 or croche@bishopodowd.org) can be contacted if you need further assistance or facilitation of academic issues.

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