

Sharing With Parents

**Kluth, P. & Causton, J.
(2016). *30 Days to the Co-
Taught Classroom.***

Families may also need a bit of help to understand the function, purposes and norms of a co-teaching team. Parents may want to know, for instance, why their child is in a co-taught classroom, what the classroom will look/feel/sound like with two teachers instead of one and how (and if) they should communicate with two educators (Murawski, 2009). You can certainly attempt to answer parent questions as they arise or you can construct and send an email describing your work and the rationale for it like these two savvy middle school teachers did:

Dear Families:

We are writing to introduce ourselves and share a few details about your child's co-taught earth science class.

Co-teaching has recently been adopted by several schools in our district due to its many benefits. In co-taught classrooms, teachers get to collaborate in lesson design and capitalize on the experiences of two professionals with different areas of expertise. In addition, this model will allow us to teach using a much wider variety of lesson formats. For example, we will regularly be able to work with students in small groups or even split the class in half to bring our teacher-student ratio down from 2:32 to 1:16.

As the year goes on, please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions you have about our co-teaching model or related practices. In addition, please talk to your eighth graders about their impressions of their co-taught classroom. We intend to make students our partners in this endeavor and plan to involve them in our collaboration so that they can help us support their learning differences, create engaging daily lessons and make science more interesting and comprehensible for all.

We can be reached through our website, via e-mail or by calling the school between 3:00-4:00 p.m. You are always welcome to speak with either one of us about your child and his or her needs. Be assured that concerns or ideas shared with one teacher will always be shared with the other.

We look forward to a successful and collaborative school year!

Sincerely,

Ms. Dee Crane & Ms. Elinor LaPlant