



## **Parent Partnership Program**

During this school year the school district is sponsoring a program for parents called the Parent Partnership Program. The program consists of a series of workshops, based on the 10 Priorities below, that will be given primarily at the school, and with two district-wide opportunities at the Topsham Public Library. The workshops are set up to allow parents time to meet other parents, to consider their own parenting priorities, and to engage in conversation and activities. Each workshop will be held from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. beginning with dinner for the family. At 6:30 p.m. teenage childcare providers will take the children for games and activities, allowing the parents to focus on one of the 10 Priorities.

### **The 10 Priorities**

**Priority 1: Truth over Harmony** Truth should be at the center of our families. Families need to operate in truth in order to establish an honest harmony, rather than a peace-at-all-costs harmony.

**Priority 2: Principles over Rules** Establishing principles in the family allows each member to understand and stay focused on what the family stands for. Rules are only a bottom-line discipline.

**Priority 3: Attitude over Aptitude** In schools and homes the focus is often on aptitude, whereas an individual's attitude is under his/her control and should be the primary focus.

**Priority 4: Set High expectations and Let Go of Outcomes** Parents need to focus on maintaining the high bar/high expectations, but allow kids to take responsibility for the outcome.

**Priority 5: Value Success and Failure** Success is important; but failure may not only teach some powerful lessons, it usually leads to successful growth.

**Priority 6: Allow Obstacles to Become Opportunities** Parents who view obstacles as possibilities for something positive, not as "problems" to be fixed, model a powerful attitude for their children.

**Priority 7: Take Hold and Let Go** Parents must understand their instincts about when to do something and when to step back. The result of this understanding is the ability to reach a decision about how to act.

**Priority 8: Create a Character Culture** There are specific actions that can help create an atmosphere in the home to help our children face the outside pressures. This priority explains the 3-point plan of job, family meeting, and mandatory fun.

**Priority 9: Humility to Ask for and Accept Help** Parents do not inspire their children, or create trust, by knowing everything. Learning to admit when things are challenging and asking for help is an important piece of parenting.

**Priority 10: Inspiration: Job # 1** Kids want to be inspired by their parents - by their growth, risks and daily modeling of character.