

What About the Parents?!

(adapted from an article by Collinson, 1995)

It is critically important that we inform parents about the process and that we encourage them to be enthusiastic supporters. Here are a few suggestions from the experts:

- Explain to parents what portfolios are before you get too far into the process. Send them a letter, meet with them, and review your plan at back-to-school night.
- If possible, have a team of teachers, parents, and students from another class or from a nearby school that uses portfolios participate in some of these meetings.
- Show parents sample portfolios.
- Remind parents that students will be keeping much of their work at school in their portfolios, so they may not bring work home as often.
- Share pertinent, jargon-free research about portfolios with parents.
- Encourage parents to ask questions.
- Invite parents to help you and your students organize and manage portfolios.
- Explain what will happen to students' portfolios at year's end.
- Invite parents to write positive letters to their children about the portfolios.

Adapted from: Collinson, Vivienne. (1995, August).
Making the Most of Portfolios. Learning. 43-46.

