

Ten Tenets of Traditional

1) a consistent structured approach

- key visuals throughout the school include
 - desks in rows
 - students move from class to class quietly, in an orderly fashion
 - students stand to answer questions in formal settings

2) a strong focus on academic achievement

- honor roll, effort roll
- healthy competition encouraged
- year end awards for intermediate grades and up
- regular participation in district events: Math/Science Olympics, Heritage Fair, Science Fair, Challenge Centres (gifted/enrichment)

3) teacher directed instruction

- while some co-operative group work is done, that is not the main mode of classroom instruction
- teacher remains in control (strong management skills evident) whatever mode of instruction is being used

4) regular skills assessment

- assignments, quizzes and tests are to be promptly marked and returned: parents often want to see assessment pieces
- parents will want to know how their child is going: "fine" is not the usual response. Be prepared with knowledge of main outcomes being covered and how parents may be supportive

5) an emphasis on phonics

- all students at the elementary level use phonics as part of their instruction in literacy. While we all know that phonics are primarily useful in teaching students to decode words, decoding itself is an important building block to reading. Best practice also means that sight words, context clues, and the like are all part of "reading for meaning" or comprehension
- phonics skills give way to instruction in how words are put together, the etymology of larger, more complex words, and stronger spelling skills

6) regular homework policy

- all students are expected to complete homework on a daily basis
- homework assignments are entered into the student planner and "signed off" by parents each evening
- the formula for minutes of homework to expect is 10 minutes of homework per grade level

7) a clearly defined code of behavior

- maintain high levels of behavior through positive reinforcement
- view mistakes as opportunities for learning
- discipline should:
 - show students what they have done wrong
 - show students how they are accountable for their actions
 - show students that there are consequences
 - show students that they can create solutions
 - keep students' dignity intact

8) a dress code

- rationale:
 - develops a strong school focus
 - produces a sense of belonging
 - intruders on the premises stand out
 - makes students easily identifiable
 - children make friends based upon personality and interests, not on socio-economic status

9) a safe environment

- behavior is closely monitored
- teachers work "in community" to guide all students, not just their own class

10) parents as partners

- parents are welcome to be part of the education process
- parents assist in many aspects of the school life:
 - Parent Advisory Council (PAC)
 - School Planning Council (SPC)
 - Key Communicator for the district
 - reading with students
 - coaching sports teams (with teacher in charge)
 - bulletin boards and displays
 - arranging for special guest speakers (or are guests themselves)
 - fundraising
 - book fairs
 - consignment shop and uniform ordering
 - backdrops and props for theatrical productions
 - leading school tours
 - hot lunches
 - laundering uniforms
 - garden box/tree planting projects
 - traffic and parking
- between one third and one half of parents indicate that their children would be enrolled in a private school or home school were they not at King