



Cimarron Middle School's communication system is proactive, focusing on building positive relationships to support student growth and achievement. The school's communication systems and protocols support staff in implementing effective communication practices. This communication starts with the classroom teachers and the relationships built between students, teachers, and families. At the start of the school year, Cimarron's school leadership

team provided professional development for teachers specifically focused on [communication and partnering with families](#). As seen in this [Cimarron Connected video](#), the team set the stage for building relationships and connecting with kids. In addition to professional learning, the school leadership team offered coaching and support for teachers, often before, during, and after parent phone calls. Providing scripts and expectations for positive phone calls and parent-teacher conferences supported the systemic implementation of these high-yield strategies.

The transition to middle school can be a big change, but Cimarron offered coffee talks to help facilitate a smoother transition for students and parents. They value parent feedback, as it helped alleviate some of the stress around this transition. One great aspect of the coffee talks was when students gave a tour from their perspective, allowing parents to ask them questions. Cimarron staff pay special attention to communicating with all students and families. For example, an ELD breakfast mirrored the coffee talk process and involved all ELD teachers from the feeder school to support the students and families.

The administrative team models relationship-building and ongoing communication through weekly staff newsletters and bi-weekly family newsletters. [The January staff newsletter](#) reminded teachers, "As the days are cold and we are not able to get outside this quarter, things might get tough at times. Lean into the relationships that you have developed to foster the environment that you want in our classrooms and school." [Bi-weekly family newsletters](#) provide regular, ongoing communication using a platform that offers translations in multiple languages, facilitating access to information and opportunities that support student success. Cimarron staff have found that highlighting sections, bolding words, and bullet points have helped readers hone in on specific areas of each communication.

Cimarron's commitment to effective communication has improved student outcomes and fostered a positive work environment, leading to high staff retention rates.