



Debating With A Teen - Don't Shut Down

Five Steps for a Better Discussion

Many parents want the recipe to avoid, end and prevent arguments with their children. Here's the bad news. Teens are predisposed to argue. It's part of their intellectual development. So when these moments happen, don't be too quick to shut down the conversation. Those moments can be formative moments where you help your child learn to think and apply core values to real-life situations.



1. Respect is non-negotiable.

While it's fine to debate, it's never OK to use a disrespectful tone of voice or attitude. It's not enough to just demand that your child show you unilateral respect. You must also demonstrate respect and patience for his or her ideas in your voice, facial expressions and choice of words. Set the tone and insist that they follow suit or the discussion is over.

2. Listen and speak in turns.

Resist the urge to interrupt your child while he/she is speaking and require the same courtesy of him or her. It takes some discipline to wait until they're finished making a point to offer your counter-point but it's the only way to communicate with fairness.

3. Get ready to connect the dots.

All of your parenting decisions should be traceable back to a core value or belief. Be able to connect those ideas for your child. If something they have asked to do presents a likely risk or runs counter to one of your fundamental values or family rules, flush that out. It's not enough to offer the "because I said so" parents; mantra. In doing this, you'll not just win the argument; you will help your child learn to assess things in a similar way. Start from a key value and let that inform them on what is right and what is wrong based upon logic and reason.

4. Be willing to concede a point every now and then.

When your teen makes a compelling or well-reasoned argument, be willing to give him or her credit and concede the point. It doesn't mean that you'll overturn your decision or come to the ultimate conclusion they desire. But if you give an intelligent child credit when he knows he's made a salient point, he'll see your "discussion" as a farce.

5. Know when it's over.

Sometimes your child doesn't want to debate in an effort to understand; they want to debate as a way to complain. When you've given them an opportunity to make their point, and you've made yours, you'll often find yourselves still in sharp disagreement. At this point, further debate isn't wise or helpful and you have to do what you think is best. At the end of the day, you're still the parent and she's still the child.

Students gathered during lunch last week to kick off the second year of the high school Above That 2 Club. The club is a continuation of the middle school Above That Club where kids meet once a month to discuss ways they can live a more balanced, happy and healthier life.

Mr. Matthew Keating is at the helm of the club this year where topics to be discussed include: dealing with stress, how to conquer sleep deprivation, signs of a toxic relationship and the dangers of underage drinking and drug use. If you have a student who may be interested in AT2, they can talk with Mr. Keating in room L104 and sign up for the next meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 18th.



Congratulations!



Pictured on left is Coalition board member, Mike Scharnow with Ben Sweet and our super Falcon Mascot.

Congratulations to Ben Sweet, winner of our last \$500 Safe Homes Network drawing!

Attend this Friday's football game when the Falcons take on Pusch Ridge for your chance to win \$500. Let us know that you are a Safe Homes Network member and receive two tickets to the drawing!

Verne C. Johnson
Family Foundation

*The Safe Homes Network drawings are courtesy of the Verne C. Johnson Family Foundation.

Save the Date for THE MINDS OF BOYS AND GIRLS

FOUNTAIN HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT, PTO & FH COALITION PRESENTS

THE MINDS OF BOYS & GIRLS

Screens, Tweens and Teens

A photograph of a group of diverse students running happily down a school hallway.

Please join us after drop off

October 25, 2018
7:45 to 8:45 am
High School Parents

8:45 to 9:45 am
Elementary and Middle School Parents

Fountain Hills Unified School District - Learning Center
16000 East Palisades Blvd

Continental breakfast provided

What will life be like for our kids in 2019? As a 9-18 year old the world has shifted and navigating the abyss of tween and teenhood is often daunting.

Come to campus and meet Katey McPherson from The Gurian Institute. Katey will offer a one hour keynote that offers immediate strategies to relate and connect with your child as they manage the schoolyard, virtual world, and beyond.

Open to parents with children in PK-12

A small portrait of a woman with dark hair, smiling.

Katey McPherson - Speaker and Mom of 4

The logo for the Fountain Hills Coalition, featuring a stylized 'F' and 'H' inside a circle.

Click [HERE](#) to enlarge flyer.



THANK YOU! SPOTLIGHT

Thank you! Ken at The Hills' Pizza & Desserts for providing delicious lunches for our FHUSD

faculty members and students. We appreciate your support over the years!

