

Dear Family,

We are starting a unit on **Communication** from our Sanford Harmony social-emotional learning program. Throughout this unit, students will have the opportunity to learn about effective conversational strategies and to practice those strategies in a supportive environment.

**Listening to Others** thoughtfully and carefully allows students to gain information and develop vocabulary, comprehension, and oral language skills. In this unit, students will learn to be attentive listeners using their whole bodies: Eyes looking, ears listening, mouth quiet, body still.

**Responding to Others** is essential to maintaining conversations. Students will practice reciprocal communication—or "talking back and forth"—with their peers as they take turns listening, thinking about what was said, and responding appropriately.

**Being Assertive** allows people to have their ideas, desires, and needs addressed. In this unit, students will develop self-confidence as they learn when and how to "Speak Up and Speak Kindly" using a strong, respectful voice.

An important part of this program is for students to continue discussing and practicing concepts outside the classroom. I am hoping you can reinforce at home what we are learning in class. Ask your child about these concepts!

Thank you for your involvement. Please contact me if you have any questions about the Sanford Harmony program.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Denise G. Steffens  
Poinciana School Counselor