

CHAPTER 4: COMMUNICATIVE

A Team is Many Voices with a Single Heart

An effective team has communicative players. Without communication, you don't have a team; you have a collection of individuals.

Common Characteristics of Communicative Team Players

1. The players do not isolate themselves from others. The more they understand about each other, the more they will feel connected and the more they'll care about being an asset to the team.
2. The players make it easy for teammates to communicate with them. They are accessible to teammates and they purposefully seek communication with teammates.
3. The players follow the 24-hour rule and they never allow a conflict to fester. Time alone doesn't usually fix problem situations.
4. The players give attention to potentially difficult relationships. All relationships need attention to thrive.

Aristotle said, "Friendship is a slow-ripening fruit."

5. Effective players follow up important communication in writing that is clear and simple. It's easier to keep everyone on the same page if the agreement is written down on paper.

To Improve Your communication

Be candid – truthful but kind

Be quick – force yourself to follow the 24-hour rule

Be inclusive – be discreet but remember that people are up on things when they are in on things

Application: Our school district maintains communication in many ways.

- our district office communicates in writing weekly with building administrators concerning news from all parts of our school district
- every administrator has an open door policy for all stakeholders
- parent and student concerns are always referred to the school site for personal communication and resolution
- school guidance counselors teach conflict resolution techniques to students during scheduled classes

Martha Ragar, 21C Coordinator & Principal, King Elementary School, Van Buren, AR