Parent Engagement Materials

For Principals

2018/2019
TOPIC: Giving Parents a Prominent Voice in Schools

Summary: This is a short video for principals and teachers about a way to achieve greater student achievement from giving parents a prominent voice in the school. Parent volunteers are trained to be family liaison officers to encourage and guide other families to engage with the school and their children’s education.

One quote from the video – “Teachers learn from parents, parents learn from teachers, students learn from both.”

This is the link:

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TOPIC: Progressing Parental Engagement - Teacher Fact Sheet

Summary: The ACT Government has published a fact sheet for teachers which addresses the following questions:

What is parental engagement? How does parental engagement work? What impact can parental engagement have – according to the research?

See the fact sheet at this link:

TOPIC: Progressing Parent Engagement – Parent Fact Sheet - What are the most important things parents can do?

Summary: When families and schools work together, children are more likely to build good relationships and do better at school. There are simple things parents can do at home, and with their child’s school, to help their child to do their best. Showing children that education is important, building their confidence and connecting with their school helps to shape children’s learning and well-being.

See this link for a fact sheet from the P&F Federation about the best things research says parents can do to engage with their children’s learning.
TOPIC: How much should parents do at home to engage with their child’s education? (Radio interview)

Summary: This is a great tool for Principals and parents to create conversation about Parent Engagement. In 2017 the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) held “the most comprehensive conference on parent engagement ever held.” The Queensland P&F Federation was heavily involved in this conference with many participants.

This radio interview is about the conference and asks “why is parent engagement such a hot button issue?” Part of the answer is that parents are an untapped resource but are one of the best ways to improve the academic performance of young people.

See this link for more information:

http://www.abc.net.au/radio/canberra/programs/mornings/parental-engagement/8590020

TOPIC: The Power of the Parents

Summary: This is an editorial about how an education administrator attempted to improve parent engagement.

Study after study over decades has concluded that students whose parents participate in their education, both at school and at home, do better on a litany of fronts. Moreover, students are not the only ones to benefit from parents who are actively involved and aware — schools and educators reap rewards as well.

So it is welcome news that Marion County School Board Chairwoman Angie Boynton has established a parent advisory committee to look for ways to encourage more parental involvement in our schools. Boynton made the move after visiting county schools and hearing from teachers frustrated by the lack of engagement by parents in their children’s education.

Educators say what is needed is for parents to embrace the value of education and preach that message daily to their children at home. That means not just doing homework and studying but encouraging behaviour as fundamental as attending school on consistent basis and showing respect for school teachers and administrators.

See this link for more information:

TOPIC: Epstein’s six types of parent involvement – A Framework

Summary: Dr. Joyce Epstein of Johns Hopkins University has developed a framework for defining six different types of parent involvement. This framework assists educators in developing school and family partnership programs.

See the framework at this link:

http://nova.saisd.net/storage/uploads/FederalPrograms/Epstein%20Framework

TOPIC: Parent Involvement Policy – an example from a school

Summary: This is a real example of a four part plan/policy for implementing parent engagement in a school.

See this link for more information:


TOPIC: Giving parents meaningful information about their child’s learning

Summary: Dylan Wiliam, Professor of Educational Assessment at the University of London talks to ACER about A to E grades and what meaningful information parents need to understand their child’s learning.

See the article and video at this link:

TOPIC: The best sources of parent engagement advice for teachers

Summary: Larry Ferlazzo is a practicing teacher. He is also one of the most passionate and prolific writers and bloggers about improving education. This site offers a wide range of resources and advice for teachers about effective parent engagement.

See more information at this link:


TOPIC: Tips for Principals, Teachers, and Families: How to Share Data Effectively

Summary: From the Global Family Resource Project. Face-to-face interaction between parents and teachers is still the cornerstone of school family engagement. Parents not only need access to data, but they need to know how to act on what the data might be telling them.

These Parent–Teacher Conference Tip Sheets provide key strategies that both parents and teachers can use to support students both in and out of the classroom. A tip sheet aimed at school principals also outlines how school administrators can support parents and teachers to that end.

See more information at this link

https://globalfrp.org/Articles/Tips-for-Administrators-Teachers-and-Families-How-to-Share-Data-Effectively

TOPIC: Seven Research-Based Ways Families Promote Early Literacy

Summary: From the Global Family Research Project. This link provides a research to practice brief on seven ways families can promote early literacy. There is also an infographic highlighting the seven methods.

See this link: https://globalfrp.org/Articles/Seven-Research-Based-Ways-Families-Promote-Early-Literacy
TOPIC: Engaging parents and families: A toolkit for practitioners

Summary: Educators, policy makers and parents in Scotland have long recognized the vital impact that positive parental engagement has on the educational outcomes of children.

This toolkit has been developed to provide practitioners with a practical resource to help support partnerships with parents and families in all aspects of their children’s learning.

Practitioners can use the toolkit to help them achieve and sustain high levels of parental involvement and meaningful engagement within their learning settings.

See this link for more information:
https://education.gov.scot/improvement/Pages/par2engagingparentstoolkit.aspx

TOPIC: TED TALK – KEN ROBERTSON /Role of leadership in education

Summary: This is a link to a Ted Talk by Ken Robertson on the role of leadership in education. It also includes the transcript.

“The point is that education is not a mechanical system. It’s a human system. It’s about people, people who either do want to learn or don’t want to learn. Every student who drops out of school has a reason for it which is rooted in their own biography. They may find it boring. They may find it irrelevant. They may find that it’s at odds with the life they’re living outside of school. There are trends, but the stories are always unique.”

See the video and transcript this link:

TOPIC: Ten useful questions for parent–teacher interview

Summary: Make the most of parent-teacher interview time. At the following link is a worksheet with 10 suggested questions to help parents plan their time at their next parent-teacher interview. This may be a useful resource to provide to parents to support them in building the parent teacher partnership.

See the worksheet at this link:
TOPIC: How to tap the skills of your parent community.

Summary: Most people have a special skill or talent that they are happy to share. Others might have a particular item that would be costly to hire or buy, but that they can easily lend. Even in a small school, the wealth of talent and skills of the parent community (and grandparents) is often an untapped goldmine.

One way to harness this talent is to create a Register of Skills – a database of the ways in which the school community can be called upon. Often parents are willing to help, but they just aren’t being asked to help in a way they feel comfortable or knowledgeable.

See more at this link:

TOPIC: 4 Ways schools can build trust by listening

Summary: So, what steps can school leaders take to establish deeper, more meaningful parent relationships?

The answer isn’t more outbound communication—schools are already good at getting their message out. The answer is better listening.

Read more at this link below:
https://www.k12insight.com/trusted/4-ways-schools-can-build-trust-listening/

TOPIC: ASU expert on teacher training says every family has something to contribute to school community; it might just take fresh approach

Summary: Margarita Jimenez-Silva, an associate professor in the Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College talks to ASU about how parent-teacher interactions can be creative and families can be made to feel like they are a part of the school community.”

Read more here:
TOPIC: How to get parents engaged at your school

Summary: There’s no question that parent engagement should be a top priority at your school. But where to begin? Today, we’ll take you through our top strategies for success.

Use the link below to explore the topic more fully:

http://memberhub.com/blog/how-to-get-parents-engaged-at-your-school/

TOPIC: Making teamwork work: Schools make parent-teacher conferences more collaborative

Summary: In districts across the country, teachers meet with parents much the same way they did 20, 30, even 50 years ago—through private, one-on-one meetings without the student, and focused almost exclusively on grades and discipline.

Now, there is a growing movement to reshape parent-teacher conferences—to shift the focus away from basic reporting to roll-up-your-sleeves collaboration between teachers, parents, and students.

Read more here:

https://www.k12insight.com/trusted/parent-teacher-conference-collaborative/

TOPIC: Making the most of parent teacher interviews

Summary: Kate Perkins, a Senior Research Fellow at the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER), discusses the benefits of effective teacher-parent relationships, how to get reluctant parents involved in the classroom, and how to best manage parent-teacher interviews.

To explore topic more fully use link below:

TOPIC: Four Takeaways from STEM Programs That Empower Families

Summary: At the heart of family engagement is the belief that we, as providers, always have more to learn from the families we serve. The most important elements of effectively co-constructing family engagement to support children’s learning is approaching program design with an open mind, asking for and truly listening to family’s spoken and unspoken feedback, and committing to refining practices based on that input. In this blog, we share four promising practices and lessons learned for engaging families in STEM.

Read more here: https://globalfrp.org/Articles/Four-Takeaways-from-STEM-Programs-That-Empower-Families?utm_source=3+of+4+Back+to+School+STEM+Learning&utm_campaign=BTS+Series+Post+3&utm_medium=email

TOPIC: How parents could revolutionize education and boost results

Summary: We can engage parents — in ways that enable students to do better, like school more and stay in school longer.


TOPIC: Mount Vernon City School District Hosts Parent Involvement Day

Summary: The Mount Vernon City School District (MVCSD) hosted its annual Parent Involvement Day Monday. Schools opened their doors to parents to spend the day with their children and see how they learn in the classroom.

"Bringing our district’s parents into the classrooms and having them engaged with their children is a vital aspect of teaching and learning that creates a springboard for greater student successes in the classroom," Superintendent Dr. Kenneth R. Hamilton said, who visited several schools.


TOPIC: Parents become students to help their kids succeed in Grand Rapids
Summary: Parents are a child’s first teachers. At North Godwin Elementary School near Grand Rapids, it’s a belief the staff takes to heart.

The school, in the Godwin Heights district in Wyoming, has earned national acclaim for academic success with a large high-poverty population. A key reason for the success? The staff goes to great lengths to get parents involved.

Read more here:


**TOPIC: From Report Card to Parent-Teacher Conferences, Schools must**

do a better job of telling families how their kids are doing

Summary: Schools that take parental engagement seriously first look at how they are communicating to parents about their children. What most requires clear communication is student performance, for which there are two time-honored means of sharing news — good or bad — with moms and dads: report cards and parent-teacher conferences. Every school, then, should ask itself: Are we maximizing the impact of these communications vehicles? The honest answer in many communities? Probably not.

Read more here:


**TOPIC: Seven ways we improved parental engagement**
Summary: Too often, our relationships with parents are confrontational and lack forethought, says this headteacher - By Leanne Forde-Nassey

Read more here: https://www.tes.com/news/seven-ways-we-improved-parental-engagement

**TOPIC: Migrant parents show the way to better Australian school results**

Summary: It’s a worry to see research showing Australian kids sliding down the charts against other countries, as well as stalled NAPLAN results. But cries to increase funding only address part of the problem. What’s needed is a much broader approach, including examining some of the social and cultural issues that could be at the heart of the problem.