Parent Engagement Materials
For all Teachers
2020
New materials July

TOPIC: The Hidden Halloween Treat
Summary: The skill of perspective taking is one that has been found to assist in problem solving, communication, multi-cultural understanding, empathy and academic performance.

https://confidentparentsconfidentkids.org/2013/10/24/the-hidden-halloween-treat/

TOPIC: Schools Drive Positive Change Through Parent-Teacher Relationships
Summary: The design-thinking process can be a step toward learning more about the real barriers that keep families from engaging in their children’s education.
Link: https://globalfrp.org/Articles/Schools-Drive-Positive-Change-Through-Parent-Teacher-Relationships

TOPIC: Parental engagement vital in education
Summary: Research has proven that family engagement in education increases student achievement and strengthens the parent-child relationship.
The National Center for Families Learning (NCFL) Toyota Family Teacher of the Year Program is designed to identify and celebrate best practices in family engagement in their children’s learning, especially in communities with high populations of minority, low-income and first-generation American families.


TOPIC: 4 Ways to Improve Parent Involvement at Your School
Summary: Engaging your students’ parents these days is actually easier than ever, thanks to the many channels at your fingertips – and theirs. In this article, I want to review those
channels and encourage you and your fellow school administrators and teachers to start making the most of the variety of communication channels that can improve parent involvement at your school.


**TOPIC: Parent-teacher conferences get new look**

**Summary:** MENASHA - Imagine adults sitting at desks built for third-graders — their knees hitting the bottom of the desks, their long legs jutting out from underneath them.

That was the scene last week in Mary Zelhofer’s third-grade classroom at Butte des Morts Elementary School for the second Academic Parent Teacher Team meeting.

The team-style meetings replaced parent-teacher conferences this year, thanks to a grant the school received from the state Department of Public Instruction.


**TOPIC: Refining the Weekly Class Newsletter**

**Summary:** It was writing workshop time on a mid-October Wednesday, and the buzz of four children chattering in excited voices was a dead giveaway that something wonderful was about to happen. A team of kids put the finishing touches on their part of our weekly class newsletter at a nearby table. For the prior two days, the kids had been puzzling their way through a challenging writing task. They wanted to write a special page about our school’s custodian. From across the room, I could see that while they worked in a cooperative and productive manner, the kids were stuck and struggling with the process. I watched them from afar, fighting the urge that all classroom teachers wrestle with each day.

https://choiceliteracy.com/article/refining-the-weekly-class-newsletter/
TOPIC: Highbridge Green School students present a project their parents helped design (also suitable for high schools and colleges)

Summary: Our recent story about the Highbridge Green School highlighted a unique collaboration between parents and teachers, who worked together to plan an English unit for the school’s first class of sixth graders.

https://ny.chalkbeat.org/2014/4/7/21095344/highbridge-green-school-students-present-a-project-their-parents-helped-design#.VOaU7PnF8lo

TOPIC: - Tackle the home-school engagement gap

Summary: Engaging parents can be tough. In a recent survey by ClassTag, 48% of primary teachers report that about a quarter of families are "hard to reach and engage." More than half of teachers say one of the biggest barriers in engaging parents is the "thinking that education is a teacher’s job, not a teamwork between parents and teachers." Bridging the gap between home and school is imperative to student success. The right communication tools are key to supporting that effort.

https://www.smartbrief.com/original/2019/08/tackle-home-school-engagement-gap

TOPIC: - 'Parents and teachers: together, we can move mountains'

Summary: As a new teacher, Emma Kell did everything to avoid speaking to parents. Today, she believes communication is vital – but it's equally important to get it right


TOPIC: - The 74 Interview: Harvard’s Karen Mapp on ESSA, Family Engagement, and How Schools and Communities Can Partner to Help Kids Succeed

Summary: Research shows that quality family engagement can prepare students for college, improve high school graduation rates, and better student achievement. The heart of this work involves treating families as true partners, with valuable insight into their child’s learning, Mapp said. Here’s how she recommends schools do that.
TOPIC: - New 'Parent Lab' program aims to help kids by teaching their elders

Summary: CHAMPAIGN — Studies show a parent's literacy and education level are huge factors in determining a child's success. A new "Parent Lab" set to launch in early February is designed to teach parents in north Champaign how to help their children with schoolwork and improve their own literacy in the process. The free program is offered through Parkland College Adult Education's Project READ program, in conjunction with the Champaign Public Library's Douglass Branch and Champaign Unit 4 schools. Parents will work with volunteer tutors to become familiar with the skills and content that their kids and grandkids are learning in school, focusing on math and reading.


TOPIC: - Getting to Know your Teacher, Getting to Know your Student’s Family

Summary: Here’s are Two Simple Tools to Help You Get to Know Your Teachers or Parents!

https://confidentparentsconfidentkids.org/2019/08/27/getting-to-know-your-teacher-getting-to-know-your-students-family/