Kicking off an inspirational school year!
Part III: Building and Maintaining Strong Parent Connections
OUR MONTHLY WEBINAR SERIES

Co-hosted by Sanford Inspire and Sanford Harmony

Thought leaders in education sharing topics to inspire the best teaching and support social emotional learning

You can watch this pre-recorded webinar at any time.
Kicking off an Inspirational School Year!

CHELONNDA SEROYER
Seroyer Educational Consultant
International Teacher Award Winner

Email: Cseroyer@HarryWong.com
Who are Harry and Rosemary Wong?

How To Be an Effective Teacher: The First Days of School
The Impact of Parental Involvement on Student Achievement

Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs
Maslow’s Hierarchy of School Needs

- **Physiological**
  - Basic Needs Are Met
    - Eats breakfast, has clean clothing, safe place to go home, able to sleep

- **Safety**
  - Emotional and Physical Safety
    - Clear school/class routines, access to counselors/nurse, ok to take risks

- **Belonging**
  - Forming Relationships
    - Advisory, adult role models, friendship groups, peer relationships

- **Esteem**
  - Positive Classroom Culture Present
    - Positive feedback, time for reflection, encouragement to take risks

- **Self-Actualization**
  - Student Is Available to Learn
Research shows that...

Because there are many diverse types of families, there will also be many levels and types of parental involvement.
4 Types of Parental Involvement

1. Parenting
2. Volunteering
3. Learning at Home
4. Communicating
Parenting

Parent’s Role
To provide a home environment that supports student success

School’s Role
• Parent education and other courses or training for parents (e.g., GED, college credit, family literacy).
• Family support programs to assist families with health, nutrition, and other services.
• List 3 things that parents can do at home to support student success.

• List 3 things that schools can do to assist parents with this task.
Suggestions

• Ask parents to set aside a specific time each day for doing homework.
• Ask parents to read to or listen to students at least 30 minutes a day.
• Ask parents to limit TV watching, gaming, internet activity, etc.
Volunteering

Parent’s Role
To identify creative ways of volunteering time, talents, or services to the school

School’s Role
To recruit and organize parent help and support from ALL parents
To welcome the volunteer efforts of ALL parents
Brainstorm

- List 3 “non-traditional” ways that parents might be able to volunteer at the school.
- List 3 things that schools can do to encourage parents to volunteer.
Suggestions

A classroom assistance program

• Weekly volunteer sessions are held in the evening.
  – Teachers who need materials photocopied or laminated or cut-and-pasted provide detailed instructions.
  – The parents are provided with the equipment to complete the projects
Suggestions

Develop a VIP (Volunteers In Partnership) program.

• Parents sign up to tutor, run papers, hang up bulletin boards.

• Organize a “Sparkle Day”
  – Ask local businesses to donate items
  – Students can paint murals
  – Outside landscaping work can be done
  – Desks and equipment can be repaired
Suggestions

• Duty Free Lunch
• Donate “extra” clothes and shoes
• Tutor teachers/parents (English/Spanish)
• Brown Bag Assistance
• Translate Newsletters, Webpages, etc.
Learning at Home

Parent’s Role

• To help students at home with homework and other curriculum-related activities, decisions, and planning
• To assist students as they set goals each year and plan for college or work

School’s Role

• To offer parent education and other courses or training for parents (e.g., GED, college credit, family literacy).
• To provide information for families on skills required for students in all subjects at each grade, homework policies, and how to monitor schoolwork.
Brainstorm

• List 2 things that ALL parents can do to assist students with their learning.

• List 2 ways that schools can help parents who may struggle in this area.
Create a “parent room” or “parent corner,” a place in the school where parents can gather to...

• pick up materials (Dictionary, Atlas, Almanacs, etc. available for check-out)
• see videos
• sign up for tutoring, cooking, parenting, classes
• access a glossary of school terms
Suggestions

Teach parents how to “create” learning opportunities

• Cooking
  – Read the recipe, Measure the ingredients

• Laundry
  – Sort colors, Read washing instructions, Measure detergent, Time wash cycles

• Grocery Shopping
  – Write shopping list, Compare prices, Classify food groups
Communicating

Parent’s Role
To openly share useful information and actively participate in the communication process
  – Return phone calls
  – Sign forms

School’s Role
To design effective forms of school-to-home and home-to-school communications about school programs and children’s progress.
  – Language translators to assist families as needed.
  – Regular schedule of useful notices.
Effective *Parent* Communication Techniques

Ask parents to share their preferred method of communication with the teacher

– Phone
– Email
– Letter
Effective Teacher Communication Techniques

Make teacher/parent interactions a *two-way street*

- Conference Room Meetings
  - Seating Arrangement
  - Pre-Meeting Discussions
  - Acronyms and Educational Lingo
  - Request for Signature (Explanation)

- Actively Listen During Phone Conversations
Effective Teacher Communication Techniques

Engage in a reflective analysis of individual situations

- MYTH - “The parents that show up for conferences and open houses are the only ones that care about their kids”

- Even the most involved parents will slack off when a teacher’s communication efforts slack off
Always Remember…

“Productive collaborations between family and school…will demand that parents and teachers recognize the critical importance of each other’s participation in the life of the child.”

– Sara Lawrence Lightfoot
Thank you for watching our webinar series:

Tips for Kicking off an Inspirational School Year!

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Thank you

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