

Parent Engagement to Increase Academic Success

Parent University
Parent Advisory Council Meeting
4-26-2022





Welcome



Parent Engagement



- District Family Nights
- Open House
- Men Bring Your Child to School Day
- Staying Healthy Walks & Running Proud
- Parent-Teacher Conference (in-person or virtual)
- Athletic Events

Parent Engagement



- Parent Workshops
- Mother and Son Dance
- Father and Daughter Dance
- Back to School Picnic
- Pizza with Police

Parental Engagement



- Family Bingo Night
- Middle School Spring Musical
- Choral Concert
- Coffee with the Principal



Research Highlights

When family members commonly engage with teachers or other school staff, students adjust more easily to classroom activities and their teachers at both the elementary and secondary levels, resulting in improved student performance (Duchesne & Larose, 2007; Junttila, Vaurus, & Laakkonen, 2007).



Learning at Home Defined

Joyce Epstein, founder and director of the National Network of Partnership Schools at Johns Hopkins University, defines learning at home as involvement of families with their children on homework and other curriculum-related activities and decisions.

it takes a village



to raise a child



It Takes a Village to Raise a Child

Frequently the words “family” or “families” are used in place of “parent” or “parents.” All family members—siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and even close friends or neighbors—often contribute in significant ways to children’s education and development.



Parental Engagement

- Parent engagement in child learning at home predicted greater academic achievement in children than any other form of parent involvement (Harris & Goodall, 2008; Downey, 2002; Izzo, Weissberg, Kasprow, & Fendich, 1999).

Principles for Family Engagement

Build	Enhance	Include
Build a Welcoming Environment	Enhance Communication	Include Parents in the Decision Making

Family Engagement Framework ISBE

Welcoming Environment

Create a home environment that values learning and builds and sustains learning activities at home.



Creating a Welcoming Environment

- Determine your child's needs as well as their preferences
- Identify a space and claim it or name it
- Make sure the space is comfortable
 - Establish study rules



Enhancing Communication

- **Communication skills are important to everyone** – they are how we give and receive information and convey our ideas and opinions with those around us.



Research Highlights

The positive effects of outreach and effective two-way communication are seen in one example where reading and mathematics achievement increased 40% more in schools with varied outreach approaches that utilized two-way communication than in schools with low, nonstrategic outreach efforts. (Dervarics & O'Brien, 2011).



Research Highlights

The most effective interventions linked to improved work quality, academic achievement, behavior, attendance, study skills, and attention are those where parents and school personnel work together to implement interventions utilizing a two-way exchange of information (e.g., parent-teacher action research teams) and those involving communication between school and home (e.g., daily report cards, school-to-home notes) (Cox, 2005).

The Importance of Communication Skills

Communication skills are particularly important for:

- Giving and collecting information
- Influencing the attitudes and behavior of others
- Forming contacts and maintaining relationships
- Expressing personal needs and understanding the needs of others
- Making decisions and solving problems

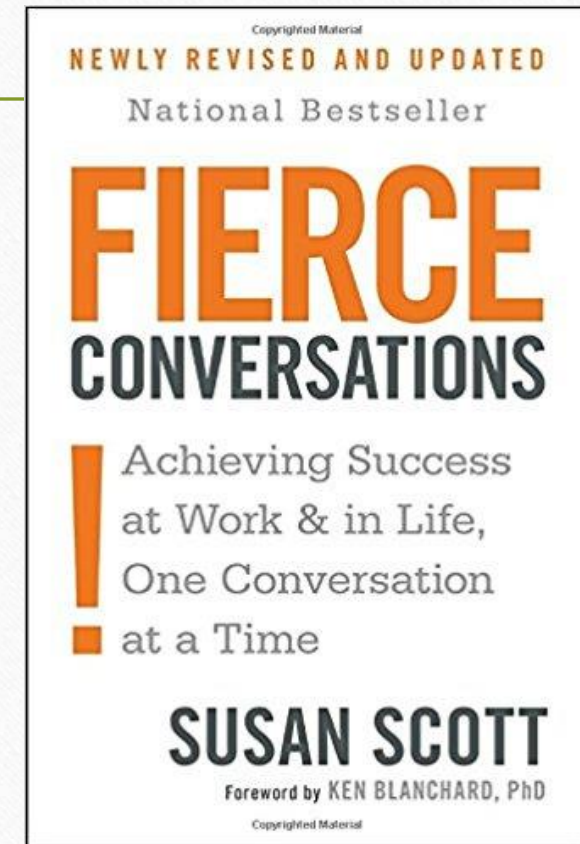
Two-Way Communication

- **Mutual understanding**
- **Exchange of information**
- **Create and share meaning**
- **Initiated by both school and family**
- **Timely and continuous**

A two-way process of reaching **mutual understanding**, in which educators, parents, and students not only **exchange information**, news, ideas, and feelings, but also **create and share meaning**. Communication is **both school- and family-initiated** and **timely and continuous**, generally using face-to-face, written, and online modes.

Conversation Questions

- Given the time we have today, what is the most important thing that you and I should be talking about? (Susan Scott)
- What is the ideal outcome? (Susan Scott)
- What can we do to resolve this issue? (Susan Scott)
- Tell me a little bit about this...
- What leads you to believe...
- What would we see and hear that would be evidence of this? (Bruce Wellman, Lucy West)



Helpful Tips...

- Keep communication brief and to the point
- Stand or sit up straight
- Make eye contact and smile
- Remember to project your voice
- Describe why you are here
- Provide closing and thank you

Let's Practice!

You were provided with some suggestions on how to assist your child with understanding fractions. You would like to have a follow up conversation with the teacher to ensure the strategies that you are using at home are the most effective.

Good afternoon, (teacher). I would like to thank you for taking this opportunity to discuss (child's name) progress in mathematics. We have practiced fractions at home, as you have suggested, and ...

- **It is important to me that** (my child) has mastered the concept of fractions.
- **Tell me a little bit about** (child's name) progress?

Now that you have talked about the child's progress. What can I do next?

- **What would I see and hear that would be evidence of** (child's name) **mastering fractions?**

Including Parents in the Decision Making

Embrace a philosophy of partnership and be willing to share power with families. Make sure that parents, school staff, and community members understand that the responsibility for children's educational development is a collaborative enterprise.

Parent Engagement in Math K-2

- Counting by 1s, 2s, 5s, and 10s up to 100
- Number recognition
- Make up addition and subtraction word problems using family names and situations (use objects to count such as coins, cereal, beans, strips of paper)
- Use computer software or online games or apps to practice math skills at home

Parent Engagement in Math 3-8

- Avoid saying you are bad in Math. "STAY POSITIVE!"
- Have your child teach you math
- Do away with "drill and kill"
- Include your child in everyday activities that involve math (making purchases, measuring ingredients, finding the better buy, tax, and discounts)
- Use household tools to do math (rulers, calculators, measuring cups, tape measures, items of different shapes and sizes)

Parent Engagement in Math 3-8

- Use computer software or online games or apps to practice math skills at home
- When your child is trying to solve a problem, ask what he/she is thinking (talking about their ideas and how they reach their solutions helps them with mathematical reasoning)
- Encourage your child to persevere and never give up. It's okay to make mistakes

Parent Engagement in LA K-2

- Read aloud to your child
- Teach Letter Names and Letter Sounds
- Trace and Say letters
- Phonological Awareness; play with spoken words to help children hear the sounds
- Listen to your child read and help them sound out words
- Repeated Reading...Read it over and over again!

Parent Engagement in LA 3-5

- Read aloud with your child
- Encourage all reading
- Have them to record and look up unknown words
- Encourage reading for information
- Discuss the books that your child reads with them
- Be a role model, show them that you love to read also!

Parent Engagement in LA 6-8

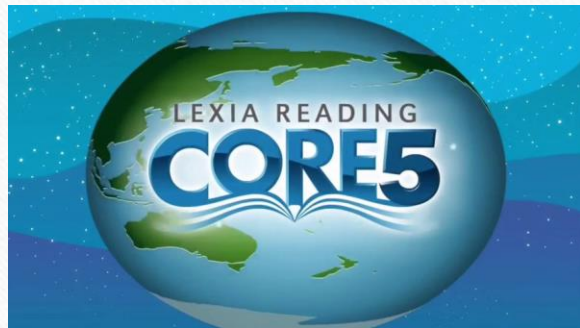
- Help them to establish a reading routine
- Encourage informational text reading through magazines and newspapers
- Encourage them to talk about what they're reading
- Have them to read to you or family members (younger siblings)
- Visit the library and bookstore together
- Encourage journaling
- Allow them to explore books based on popular media

Parent Engagement

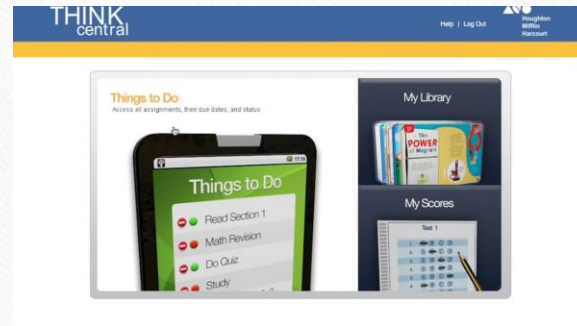
- Active and meaningful participation in children's education
- Present in every aspect of your child's life (physical health, social well-being, emotional well-being, and academic achievement)
- A discussion between parents and educators on how they can improve children's learning and provide a supportive home learning environment



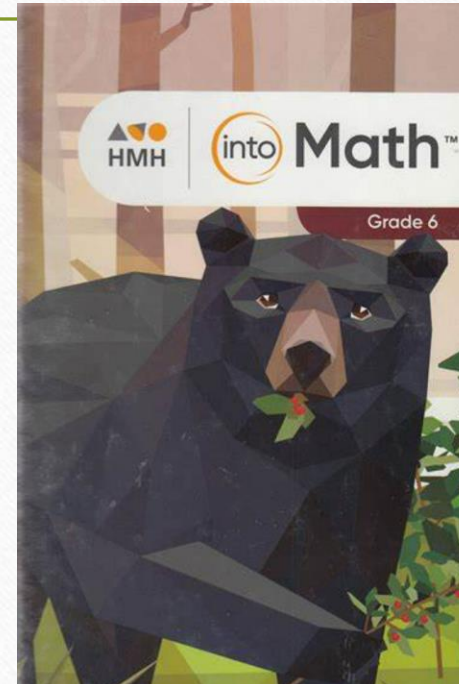
Hands-on Exploration



Clever



SAVVAS realize™



IXL LEARNING™



Hands On Exploration

Each of you should have your child's log-on information

You will get the opportunity to sign-on





District 89 Community Parent University



Thank you for attending!

