

Haley Krueger

EDU 645

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Welcome to my elementary classroom. My name is Miss Haley Krueger, I'm 20 years old, and I will be teaching first graders. Parental involvement has been proved to help students achieve better grades and successfully finish school. Parent involvement does not only benefit the student but also the parents, educators, school, and community (Olson, 2012). The six types of parent involvement include; parenting, communicating, volunteering, learning at home, decision making, and collaborating with community. Making sure that all of these involvements are used in the school is important for student success. I am providing this information to help inform parents of different ways for my classroom to involve the parents.

Parenting

One important strategy that we use at our school is a school website. Research has shown that 87 percent of homes have internet access (Piper, 2012). For those parents that do not have internet access we make sure we keep them up to date by newsletters and meetings set up when the parent feels comfortable with doing them. A school website is a great opportunity to provide information to the parents such as; links for resources they could use to better themselves or parenting skills, keep parents up to date with events and activities done in the classroom, and provides grades to see how their students are doing. This website would be kept private though, so not everyone has access to it. The parents would receive login information so that they are able to see what is going on.

By having a website that provides this kind of information parents could stay up to date with everything their students are doing in the classroom and not have to worry about taking a lot of unnecessary time off to meet with the teacher. The website could provide pictures of activities so that the parents can see how they children are interacting with other students. This could also help should the progress the student is making in the classroom. In my opinion many parents do not see how much fun a classroom can have, because many students only talk about the bad things that are happening in the classroom. By providing grades online the parents would be able to see how the student is doing academically. If they are struggling with a certain area the parent could meet with the teacher and figure out strategies for helping the student achieve better.

Communication

The communication strategy that I would use would be a weekly newsletter set home the Friday before the coming week. In this newsletter I would provide parents with information about what we will be doing in the coming week. I feel that a weekly newsletter would be the best way to keep parents up to date and communicate with them. With the economy in many families both parents are working, so it is hard to schedule times to meet with them and talk about what is going on in the classroom. With the website already discussed a weekly newsletter could be hung up on the fridge for quick access. I would also want the children to be involved in the newsletters so I would ask for input from the each week on how the newsletter should look. Keeping the children interested in the newsletter I feel would help them communicate with their parents about it.

The newsletter would not only inform parents about upcoming activities and events but also provide some at home learning opportunities for the parents to work with the students on. The activities focus on what we will be learning in the upcoming week to help students get a head start on learning. The newsletter would have a spot on the back to fill out how the students did with the at home learning, and provide places for the parents to comment on the activities. This would provide a way for the parents to communicate weekly with the teacher and also help the teacher get an understanding of how he or she is doing with their activities. Photo credit from Laurie (2012).

Friday Foote Facts
January 27, 2012

HAPPENINGS

READING/Writing:
We have been learning that good readers make movies in their mind when they read. We also read a lot about the statue of Liberty.

MATH:
We switch classes for math each day. Currently all classes are working on adding and subtracting double digit numbers with and without borrowing/carrying.

MISS:
We used pennies to learn that copper turns to a green color when exposed to weather. We also measured out how long Lady Liberty's foot is...26 feet!

MATH-Baseball		MATH-Improved	
Caden	Mark	Anastasya	-8
Eric	William	William	-9
Bailey H.	Alexis	Graham	-9
Alexa Ann	Alexa	Levi	-10
Elizabeth	Graham	Nathan	-20
Grace	Nate	Joseph	-27
Bailey Y.		David	-45
Byron		Nalani	-48
Levi		Byron	-50
Nalani		Alexa Ann	-54
		Elizabeth	-58
		Bailey Y.	-62

DATES TO REMEMBER:

January 30th: No School-Workday
February 11th: Appleless Breakfast
February 14th: Valentine's Party
February 19th: No School-Furlough
February 20th: No School-Holiday
February 21st: American Symbol Project due



Measuring to see if how we measure up against the statue of Liberty's foot.

BOX TOPS
Sunnyside is collecting box tops. Find them on M&M's, cereal, and lots of other food products! Then bring them to the classroom and add them to the bucket!

UPCYCLE
Keep saving tubes: paper towel, toilet paper, etc. We will be using them in March!



THIS WEEK

Monday: No School-Workday
Tuesday: PE-wear tennis shoes
Wednesday: Music
Thursday: PE-wear tennis shoes
Friday: Library-bring books
Reading Logs due

Volunteering

Parents who are involved have shown to increase their student's achievements. So volunteering with the student's classroom or school is very important. Encouraging families to volunteer with the school is important but can also be time consuming, so offering different types of volunteer positions is important. The program I found to get parents to volunteer in different ways is called the Three for Me program. This program helps parents find different ways to volunteer at home, school, and in the community. It has been show that volunteering for just three hours in the classroom can make a large impact on your children (Winfrey, 2010).

The Three for Me program would leave it up to the parents out what they would do to volunteer, how, and when they would do it (PTA). This gives the parents an opportunity to volunteer without feeling pressured to do it at a certain time. This would allow them to do it when they have some extra free time. I feel that it is important to allow parents to volunteer when they have time so that they do not feel pressured at any certain time. The program is also voluntary, the parents would not be required to join the program but encouraged to do so. The parents who volunteer can get these cards to fill out and hang up, providing a reminder for them. Once the parent has done their volunteering the parent would receive this certificate to show that we appreciate them.

 <p>I promise to volunteer Three Hours of my time for my child during the _____ school year at _____ Parent Name: _____ Phone: _____ Child's name: _____ Grade: _____ Teacher: _____</p>	 <p>Three for Me I KEPT MY PROMISE Certificate of Appreciation presented to _____ <i>In recognition of dedicating a minimum of three hours for our students and school.</i> School Name _____ Signature _____ Date _____ PTA <small>everychild.meridian</small></p>
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(Photos: PTA)

Learning at Home

Learning at home can be beneficial to the student because it gets the learning in a different environment other than the classroom. One activity that I like is homework activity involving words of the week. The student would be given a packet and a list of words. The student then has to ask someone in the house to define the word in their own words, and the student writes down the definition (Second Grade, 2013). I got this idea from my work, where one of the classrooms does it. This gets the student learning words and the definition to go along with the word. This is a fun activity to do at home because it helps the student communicate with different family members also.

The assignment sheet would look like this:

Name: _____

Weekly Words

Name of Person: _____

Word: _____

Definition: _____

Name of Person: _____

Word: _____

Definition: _____

Name of Person: _____

Word: _____

Definition: _____

Decision Making

Decision making is important because it affects the parents, their students, and the school. Making sure that the parent's voice is heard is very important because it is the parents who have their students in the school. Allowing parents to set up advisory meetings is a great way for them to get involved with the school. Having parent advisory meetings gives the parents a time to meet with each other and talk about issues they may be having with the school (Olson, 2012).

When planning the meetings make sure they always fall on the same day of the month. For example if the meeting always falls on the second Sunday of the month at 6:00 p.m. parents would know what day each month to make time in their schedules to attend. This could also give parents a time to plan different activities, benefits, and such for the school. I find it very important to allow parents these opportunities because it shows that the school truly cares about what their views are. If parents feel that the school will listen to their views they might feel more comfortable to get involved with the school more.

Making sure the meetings are successful is very important part of the meetings. The meetings should show diversity and have a large number of parents attending. The school should provide information in the meeting about events the school is working on at the current time (Olson, 2012). Making sure these things are involved in the meeting can help the meeting run more smoothly and make it easier for parents to discuss important decisions.

Collaborating with Community

The community is very important to the school. The school should act as a source for information about community events and activities, and encourage parents and students to attend them. Growing up on way are school collaborated with the community was through the public library. The public library provided memberships for the students and their families and encouraged us to go and check out books. This got parents to start reading along with their children. The public library was also a great place to learn about different community events that were happening in the local area. In the summer the local library also provided a Bookmobile for the students in the local after school programs or low socioeconomic areas of the time (Bismarck Veterans Memorial Library). This was a bus that was filled with books for all ages. I feel that this helped encourage reading during the summer, when student think they are taking a break from school.

In my classroom I would make sure that parents know about the public library and the summer Bookmobile. I feel that it is important for parents to get involved with the community like this and feel that encouragement from my classroom would help. I would like to take the students on a field trip to the public library, and invite the parents to attend also. This would help them get a feel of what the library has to offer. The public library in Bismarck, ND has so many different resources I feel that it would be important to inform the parents and students about them.

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