

"EMPOWERING PARENTS: THE KEY TO SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL-PARENT PARTNERSHIPS"

by:

Gideon V. Roberts

Master Teacher I Paraiso Elementary School

Parents' involvement in different school activities plays a crucial role in a child's education and overall development. When parents engage in school activities, they establish effective lines of communication with teachers and school administrators. This open channel of communication allows parents to stay informed about school policies, curriculum updates, and upcoming events. It also creates a supportive network between parents, enabling them to exchange information, seek advice, and work together to address common concerns. Moreover, parental involvement contributes to creating a positive and supportive learning environment within the school. When parents actively participate in activities such as volunteering in classrooms, organizing events, or joining parent-teacher associations, they help foster a sense of community and cooperation. This can lead to improved student behavior, motivation, and overall engagement in learning.

Furthermore, parents' involvement in school activities promotes a child's emotional and social development. By attending school events like performances, sports competitions, and exhibitions, parents demonstrate their interest and support for their child's non-academic pursuits. This involvement can boost a child's self-esteem, confidence, and sense of belonging within the school community. Likewise, parents who actively participate in their child's school activities can support and reinforce their academic progress. By attending parent-teacher meetings, they can stay informed about their child's performance, identify areas of improvement, and work collaboratively with teachers to address any challenges. Involvement in activities like homework assistance, reviewing

assignments, and discussing educational goals can greatly enhance a child's academic success.

Unfortunately, not all the teachers and the school heads were blessed with empowered and supportive parents. In this article, we will talk about the different points to consider in empowering the parents to participate and get involve in different school activities in order to have a strong force and foundation to achieve the school's goals.

a. Establish Open Communication Channels: Establish clear and open lines of communication between the school and parents. Ensure that parents receive regular updates and information about school activities, events, and opportunities to get involved.

b. Conduct Parent Orientation Programs: Conduct orientation programs at the beginning of each academic year to familiarize parents with the school's vision, policies, and available avenues for parental involvement. Explain the benefits of parental engagement and showcase success stories of involved parents.

c. Intensify Parent-Teacher Associations (PTA): Encourage parents to actively participate in PTA meetings and activities. PTA meetings provide a platform for parents to voice their concerns, contribute ideas, and actively participate in decision-making processes.

d. Provide Volunteer Opportunities: Create a range of volunteer opportunities that cater to different interests and time commitments. This might include assisting in classrooms, organizing events, participating in fundraising initiatives, or supporting extracurricular activities. Offer flexible options so that parents can choose roles that suit their availability.

e. Organize Parent Workshops and Training: Organize workshops and training sessions for parents on topics such as effective parenting, supporting children's learning at home, understanding curriculum and assessments, or enhancing communication skills. Such

workshops can help parents feel more confident and equipped to engage in school activities.

f. Recognize and Appreciate Parental Involvement: Regularly acknowledge and appreciate the contributions of involved parents. This recognition can be in the form of certificates, awards, or public appreciation during school events. Celebrating the efforts of parents encourages others to get involved as well.

g. Consider the Use of Technology: Leverage technology to facilitate parental engagement. Utilize digital platforms to share information, provide updates, and create virtual communities where parents can connect, share ideas, and collaborate. Online platforms can also provide access to resources, educational materials, and forums for discussion.

h. Flexibility and Inclusivity: Recognize that parents have diverse backgrounds, schedules, and commitments. Be flexible in accommodating their needs and provide a variety of involvement opportunities that cater to different circumstances. Consider offering alternative meeting times, providing translation services, or facilitating virtual participation to ensure inclusivity.

i. Seek input and Involve Parents in Decision-Making: Actively seek parent input when making decisions that affect the school community. Create opportunities for parents to participate in committees or advisory groups where their voices can be heard and considered.

j. Establish Parent Empowerment Programs: Consider establishing parent empowerment programs that focus on building knowledge, skills, and confidence in parents. These programs can cover various aspects, such as parenting skills, educational advocacy, and understanding the school system.

Remember, empowering parents requires ongoing effort and a genuine commitment to collaboration. By creating a welcoming and inclusive environment, schools can effectively engage parents in various activities and foster a strong partnership between home and school for the benefit of students.

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