Parents....an Invaluable "Link" to Student Success

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Parents . . .

An Invaluable Link to Student Success!

Jan Mendence, NW Georgia RESA
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Why is Parent Involvement Important for Student Success?

- It is the single most critical factor influencing student achievement.
- Education must continue “outside” the building.
- A parent’s involvement in their child’s education sends a strong message that they “value” education.
- Parents who demonstrate support and high aspirations for their child will increase their child’s commitment to succeed.
“It has been found that as parent involvement increases, students’ attitudes toward schoolwork improve.”

(Kellaghan, Sloan, and Alvarez, 1993, p.72)
PTA’s National Standards for Family-School Partnerships

**Standard 1:** Welcoming all families into the school community — Families are active participants in the life of the school, and feel welcomed, valued, and connected to each other, to school staff, and to what students are learning and doing in class.

**Standard 2:** Communicating effectively — Families and school staff engage in regular, meaningful communication about student learning.

**Standard 3:** Supporting student success — Families and school staff continuously collaborate to support students’ learning and healthy development both at home and at school, and have regular opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and skills to do so effectively.

**Standard 4:** Speaking up for every child — Families are empowered to be advocates for their own and other children, to ensure that students are treated fairly and have access to learning opportunities that will support their success.

**Standard 5:** Sharing power — Families and school staff are equal partners in decisions that affect children and families and together inform, influence, and create policies, practices, and programs.

**Standard 6:** Collaborating with community — Families and school staff collaborate with community members to connect students, families, and staff to expanded learning opportunities, community services, and civic participation.

For more information about the National Standards and PTA programs that promote family-school partnerships, visit www.pta.org.
Challenges . . . many!

“A common comment of teachers is that the parents they most want to see (those with lower achieving children) seldom enter the school door.”

(Karther and Lowden, 1997, pg.4)
What are the Challenges?

How do we tackle them?

1. Parents don’t know how to contribute
   - Seek parents out, don’t wait for them to volunteer
   - Create a list of specific jobs or events for volunteers
   - Distribute a simple parent handbook listing opportunities with names and contact information
What are the Challenges?

*How do we tackle them?*

2. Parents without adequate resources

- Provide information on health/social services in the community
- Work agreements with agencies to provide services at school
- Provide opportunities to listen and discuss their situation with a professional
3. Childcare

- Provide childcare at site
- Use high school or college students from Child Development classes to babysit
- Involve PTA, community members, or social services to assist with childcare
- Follow state regulations to provide safe child care
What are the Challenges?
*How do we tackle them?*

4. Language Barriers

- Provide materials in their native language
- Have an interpreter present at meetings/events
- Hold pre-events with similar ethnic groups, culminate with large group
What are the Challenges?

How do we tackle them?

5. Transportation

- Hold in a community location instead of the school
- Provide bus transportation for special events
- Provide “Visitor” parking at the school
What are the Challenges?

*How do we tackle them?*

6. Special Needs

- Make sure that your building is accessible for parents with disabilities
- Provide someone to “sign”, if requested

https://www.pta.org/programs/content.cfm?ItemNumber=1101
What are the Challenges?

How do we tackle them?

7. Lack of Knowledge

- Provide Parent Informational Sessions on topics of interest
- Survey parents as to interested topics for sessions
- Hold the sessions at different times of the day
- Involve various groups at the school to provide a light meal
- Get community leaders, health/social service professionals to present
The American Family is the bedrock on which a strong educational foundation must be built to prepare our children for the rigors of the 21st century”.

It Takes a Village

Governmental Issues

- Georgia’s A Plus Education Reform Act of 2000
- US Department of Education’s Goals 2000: Educate America Act
- A Call to Action for American Education in the 21st Century, State of the Union Address, President Clinton
PBIS in Haralson County

HCSD is comprised of 6 schools:
- 2 Primary
- 2 Elementary
- 1 Middle
- 1 High School

In 2014 the Rebel Mascot was used to develop the REBEL WAY for each of our schools.
REBEL FEST
FREE SCHOOL SUPPLIES

HARALSON COUNTY STUDENTS

JOIN US JULY 22 AT HARALSON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL FROM 7-9PM. MUSIC AND FIREWORKS TO FOLLOW AT 9PM.

HARALSON COUNTY HIGH
405-727-4075

FOOD | GAMES | FACE PAINTING | FIREWORKS

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY
Coffee Chat

Haralson County Schools
Coffee Chat

What are the exciting things going on in your child’s school?
Would you like to check your child’s grades/attendance?
Would you like to be more involved in the activities of the school?
Does your child have an IEP?

We would like to answer your questions and share the positive things happening in HC Schools.

Let's chat....

Let's Have Coffee!

Who: Parents, Students, Community Members, Business Leaders, etc...
What: Please join us for an evening of chatting over coffee and refreshments to discuss positive improvements for student success.
When: March 23rd at 5 o'clock
Where: The Community Christian Council Resource Center at 734 Bowdon Street Tallapoosa, GA
Contact Angela West or Robin Dockery at the Haralson County Board of Education at 770-574-2500 for more information.

Come support our schools tonight!

Do you have questions or concerns? Have suggestions or ideas? Do you need some help logging into Infinite Campus? This is your opportunity to chat with us. We value our community and we want to hear from you.

Like Share
Pinto Bean Lunch at TPS
Additional Parent Engagement Activities cont’d

Rebel 180 and Muffins with Mentees.
Additional Parent Engagement Activities

Parents as students at HCMS  PBIS in community settings.
Are We Targeting all 3 Parent Tier Levels?

Tier 3 - **Intensive, Individual Interventions**

- Individualized Skill Building, Family Laison - needs matched with community resources

Tier 1 - **Universal Interventions**

- Parent Conferences, Family Nights
- Parent Grade Level Information Sessions
- Rebel Fest, Pinto Bean Luncheon, Coffee Chats, Parents As Students

Tier 2 - **Targeted Group Interventions**

- Brown Baggin’ It
- Jacket Parent University
- Academic Parent-Teacher Teams
- Military Families
- ESOL for Parents
What parent programs are your system providing in the 3 Tiers?

Tier 3 - *Intensive, Individual Interventions*

Tier 2 - Group Based Interventions

Tier 1 - *Universal Interventions*

tinyurl.com/y9fvjyvt
“Parents should believe that no matter how much difficulty they are having, there is one place they can always go, be welcomed, and get help; the school.”

(DeBruyn, 2001, p.4)
Contact Information

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Barrett, Susan. Positive Support for All: Application of SW-PBS to support everyone in the school community. Mid-Atlantic PBS Network. [Power Point slides].


DeBruyn, R.L. (2001, October 1) Actions to open lines of communication with parents. The Master Teacher. 33(5)


tinyurl.com/JAVMParentInvolvement