WELCOME

Parent University

Empowering the strongest stakeholder

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CHRISTOPHER TURNER

- Principal
- Ed. S in Organizational Leadership with Emphasis in K-12 Education
- New York Born & Raised
- Former Special Education Teacher/Department Chair/Director
- Siblings in education
- Education Philosophy (Rigor, Relevance & Relationships)

POLL

Go to www.menti.com and use the code 9429 2498

OBJECTIVES

- ❖ Develop ways to bridge the gap between community, parent, and school

- ❖ Explore ways to enhance relationships between home and school

- ❖ Show participants how to deliver intentional and purposeful assistance, information, and training through educational workshops, seminars, activities, and community resources for parents

- ❖ Address needs of participants from Menti poll

Bellwork

- Where would you rank the parent(s) as it pertains to stakeholders?

  Why?

- Why is it important to empower our parents?

- What does empowerment mean to you, when it comes to our parents?

Historically

Decades of research point to the benefits of parental involvement in education. However, research has also shown that underserved population, middle-class parents are disproportionately involved. Charter schools, as schools of choice, have been assumed to have fewer involvement barriers for minority and low-income parents, but a 2007 survey of charter leaders found that parent involvement remains a significant challenge (Smith, Wohlstetter, Kuzin & De Pedro, 2011).

Decades of research point to the numerous benefits of parental involvement in education for not only students but also for the parents involved, the school, and the wider community (Barnard, 2004; Epstein, 2001; Fan & Chen, 2001; Henderson & Mapp, 2002; Jeynes, 2003, 2007; Lee & Bowen, 2006).

The Pandemic Parent

The pandemic has shown countless barriers that families face daily in their goal of educating their children. Acknowledging the relevance of parental involvement and simultaneously considering the specific challenges for parents supporting their children at home during the lockdown, this moment in time may have created new challenges for home-based parental involvement, or intensified existing ones. The COVID-19 pandemic can open the way for improvements in education, such as the support and promotion of parental involvement. Hence, understanding parents' perspectives is key during these unprecedented times (Cunha, Silva, Carvalho & Vital, 2011).

The Pandemic Parent

The creation of parent University

Our rationale

Our campus was in need of a way to help us build better relationships with our parents. We saw the disconnect, the negativity and the displeasure of campus personnel from the pandemic. We saw that parents saw became knowledgeable about the gaps in their own learning that needed attention, in order for them to help their child. Our way to help bridge that gap was to truly gain a better understanding of what they needed from us as an administrative team and school. It needed to be intentional and purposeful.

Survey says

- We gave families a week to complete

- Email reminders were sent out on Monday evening, Wednesday afternoon and then Friday morning.

Survey says

Survey Example

Results Are In

- 334 Families completed Survey

- 32% of our parent population completed survey

- Results were then graphed and put together for the families to view (email sent out the following Monday)

Think-Pair-Share

- Think about your school and the needs of your parents. What topics would you add to your Parent University survey?

Data Driven Decision Dates

- ❖ **Topics were strategically placed on the calendar**
  - ➢ **Curriculum Resources (August)**
    - ▪ How to navigate throughout curriculum
  - ➢ **Bullying (September/October)**
    - ▪ Bully awareness month
  - ➢ **Suicide Awareness (November)**
    - ▪ The most amount of threat assessments conducted
  - ➢ **Social Emotional at Home (December)**
    - ▪ Holiday season sadness

Data Driven Decision Dates

- ❖ August 19th- Parent University Meet & Greet
- ❖ August 26th- Tips for Online Learning/Social Media Etiquette
- ❖ September 2nd- Curriculum Awareness
- ❖ September 9th- ELL Supports
- ❖ September 16th- Understanding MAP data/ IXL
- ❖ September 23rd- Bully Awareness
- ❖ September 30th- Literacy 101/ Math 101
- ❖ October 7th- Effective Parent-Teacher Communication

Format

- Weekly virtual meeting
- Every Wednesday @ 5:30-6:30 pm
- Link was sent out to families every Monday
- Teachers included the Parent University link in their Weekly communication the prior Friday
- Weekly Topics
- Utilizing staff members as our experts & as participants

Communication

1. Teacher adds Google link into weekly email every Friday
2. Tuesday Email afterschool
3. Wednesday Morning email @ 8:30am
4. Wednesday Text @ 5 pm

Virtual Meeting Norms

We had on average 75-100 families on weekly so we needed to set those norms to streamline the evening:

- Mute your microphone
- Ask questions related to topic being presented
- Respect others opinions and comments
- Utilize the Q&A worksheet for questions unrelated to topics
- Sign in weekly

Partnerships

- Teachers
  - Utilizing teachers as the experts to talk on specific topics (empowering them).
  - Prop 301 hours opportunity
- Community Members/Services
  - Including community partners to speak on specific topics
- Parents
  - Empower parents to present on topics that they are passionate about

Unexpected Benefits

- Parent to Parent supports
- Experiencing a Google Meet from anywhere
- More personalized interaction
- Academic Suggestions (from the view of a parent)

Graduation

Parents who attend 75% of Parent University meetings were awarded a certificate and had a Graduation.

Partner Pair Up

❖ **Think about how Parent University can be beneficial to your school community and how will you intentionally and purposefully target your specific school communities to gain resources for your parents to increase student achievement.**

3-2-1 Exit ticket

3 ideas you'll try in your school community

2 positive comments about the overall presentation

1 lingering question about the material presented

FEEDBACK
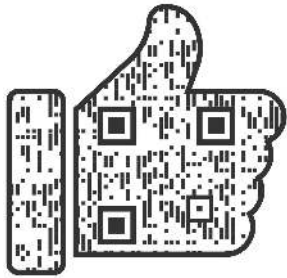
Questions

Contact Information

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Parent University: Empowering the Strongest Stakeholder

1. Create a Parent Survey

Create a list of topics that you believe your parents will want to discuss, learn or have them create topics of interest. Send it out to parents this summer and give one week for them to complete it.

2. Analyze Survey Data

Review the parent survey data for each topic and their percentage. Put them in order of importance based on the data, then determine the needs of your campus.

3. Create a Semester/Quarter Schedule

Begin to create your calendar for when topics will be presented and strategically place them on the calendar, and get your parents excited about it. Utilize your families and other key stakeholders.

4. Find Resources/Community Members

Reach out to teachers, local businesses, and other community members that you want to be a part of presenting during Parent University.

5. Reflect: Adapt, Adjust, or Abandon

Continue to determine what is working and what needs to be adjusted based on parent feedback and what your audience is needing at the time of your presentations.

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