PARENT’S INVOLVEMENT IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

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Parent involvement is defined as requires asking about their children’s homework, contacting a teacher, and also, watching every single move a student makes. In addition, parent involvement includes parent-student communication, family rules with consequences, parental support of academics, parent-school communication initiated at a school level versus the teacher level as well as parents checking on homework. It is no wonder that parent’s involvement in school has become a major educational issue nowadays. Parent’s involvement is valuable. As we look more closely to relevant research, that the most effective and strong indication forms of parent’s involvement are those which engage with their children on learning activities at home. There is much incidence of involvement at preschool level than at middle school. However, school has difficulties in getting the parents to be involving more with school activities. Maybe they are trying to give the adolescent the independence he or she desires. There are indication that students perform better because of parent’s determination to education and their hard work in helping them. We know that in every school there are the families who will always be involved and there are those, for whatever reason might not be. So there is a must to reach out in any way they need.

But what do schools really need to do in order to raise the awareness on parent’s involvement? In the article written by Wolpert-Gawron 2016, there are ways to encourage family engagement in secondary schools to name a few, parents need to be involved as early as preschool. Secondary schools tend to have larger gatherings and this could be intimidating for the families who were not used to it. Second, the administration should create a parent advocacy group wherein the principal ensures that there is some parent
leaders that share the demographic to those who were least engaged. Another is to take school information on the road, there are community centers where group of families congregate and prepare a meet-and-greet with them. Lastly is to find out what families need, conduct a need assessment asking how they would like to be reached throughout school years and what concerns them the most. We cannot separate student’s achievement without having a serious talk about engaging our student’s families. As reforms in education call for increased customization and collaboration with families, parental involvement is an important consideration for school personnel. Awareness and understanding of how parent’s involvement affects children’s learning will help schools better support parents in supporting their children’s academic success.

References: