SIX WAYS TO PARENTS’ HEARTS

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“At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child’s success is the positive involvement of parents.” – Jane D. Hull

This is a catchy quote that really tells it all. It confirms that the involvement of parents in their children’s education is very significant to students’ academic achievement. There had been studies and researches that talk on some suggestions to help schools expand parents’ involvement in their children’s learning.

Based on the State Board of Education’s Parent and Family Involvement Policy, the National PTA’s National Standards for Family-School Partnerships and Joyce L. Epstein’s Framework of Six Types of (Parent) Involvement as highlighted in the website www.education.ohio.gov, there are six suggested ways to increase the involvement of parents in the school activities, programs and projects that are inclined to quality education.

First, create a welcoming school climate. When parents visit the school, show them that they are welcome by means of warm personal greetings. Get their contact details and communicate with them personally through letters, texts, phone calls, and much more, home visits. Invite them also to school assemblies or conduct open house in order for them to know their children’s teachers, and how well their children do in school.

Second, involve them in fun-filled activities. The school could also organize events like family day where teachers, parents and the students could have bonding. It would
also help if the school could provide workshops or livelihood trainings for parents to enhance the relationship.

Third, establish effective school-to-home and home-to-school communication. This could be done by providing the parents the information on the progress of their children like printed anecdotal records, progress report cards, printed student manual or school policy and school directory. It would also be effective if teachers could send homework notes for review and follow-up. You could also try to design or create suggestion box for the parents’ comments and recommendation.

Fourth, strengthen families’ knowledge and skills to support and extend their children’s learning at home and in the community. Teachers could develop activities that would serve as training for parents as a way of helping their children improve their academic performance. Another way is to make regular homework assignments that require students to discuss with their families what they are learning in class. Community activities could also be organized to strengthen the relationship between the parents, the school and the community.

Fifth, engage parents in school planning, leadership and governance. The school could organize their own School Governing Council (SGC) whose functions are clearly identified to the members. Here, the parents and school stakeholders could take part in decision-making, especially when it concerns the policies of the school that would affect the child. In doing such, make sure that equal representation for parents on SGC are well considered.

Sixth, connect students and families to community resources that reinforce and support students’ learning and well-being. Let the children’s parents and their families get access to community-based programs like health care and human services to somehow extend assistance to them and provide the needed support to their children. Teachers could help in coordinating with some agencies that could help these families.
Through these ways, the school and the teachers would have strong partnership with the students’ parents, resulting in stronger connections and parental involvement. This in turn could lead to higher learners’ achievement.

References:


www.partnershipschools.org.

www.education.ohio.gov

State Board of Education, Parent and family involvement policy page.