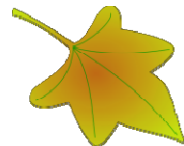


Parent Engagement Best Practices

Here are some tips you can use to get involve in your child's education:

- Attend school functions
- Meet your child's teacher
- Volunteer at school events or classroom activities
- Write a note to your child's teacher explaining any special issue you want the teacher to know about your child
- Pay special attention to the notes and/or letters received from school



Fresno County Office of Education
Parent Services Center



1684 W. Shaw Ave., Suite #101
Fresno, California 93711

place
stamp here

Fresno County Office of Education
Parent Services Center (PSC)
Newsletter

1684 W. Shaw Ave., Suite 101, Fresno, CA 93711 • Phone (559) 497-3865 • Fax (559) 497-3801 • www.fcoe.org/psc

SEPTEMBER 2008

VOL. I ♦ ISSUE N^o. 1

Message from the Superintendent



How exciting it is to be starting a new school year and to have an excellent team of educators available through our Parent Service Center (PSC). As many of you know, I have always wanted to make access to school and to school information a priority. I also wanted to reduce the bureaucracy and make it easier for parents to get answers about schools, classes, teachers, and many other things associated with a student's education. Well, it is here now in the form of our very own Parent Services Center and it is staffed with highly skilled and competent educators who speak multiple languages.

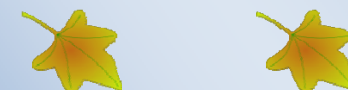
My hope is that each parent in Fresno County will feel free to call our PSC whenever there is a question that they do not know the answer to. Each parent is a child's first teacher and we at the Fresno County Office of Education know that. We want to partner with each parent to make sure that every child has access to a first rate education. As this school year progresses, please feel free to call on the PSC to help guide you through the maze that is public education. Our goal is help take the mystery out of school and to help each parent and family member to feel like full partners in this process that we call education.

Get ready to have fun and to be encouraged as we work together to make the 2008-2009 school year the best year yet. Every parent participating is a key to making it happen.

Larry L. Powell

INSIDE...

Message from the Superintendent.....	1
What's New at Fresno County Office of Education	1
Homework Tips.....	2
Useful Resources for Parents.....	2
Parent Services Center Programs And Services.....	3
Parent Engagement Best Practices.....	4



What's New at Fresno County Office of Education?

Fresno County Office of Education's Parent Service Center (PSC) is one of many departments that provide a full range of programs and support services to our 34 districts. PSC is fortunate to work with parents and district personnel in our county. Our mission is simple: to help teach, support, and empower parents to be partners in their child's education. When parents are involved, we see better attendance, higher grades, improved attitudes and enhanced learning. I am pleased to announce the addition of Poukham (Paul) Sinpraseth and Setha Nhim to our team as parent trainers. Both Paul and Setha have worked tirelessly in our community to empower our parents. Prior to joining FCOE, Paul spent 16 years with Fresno Unified School District. Setha was a former teacher, a community builder, and an artist. Multi-lingual staff at Parent Services Center are here to serve you.

Tou N. Herr
Coordinator



Homework Tips

Help your child make a schedule and post it in a place where you and your child will see it often. Writing out assignments will get your child used to the idea of keeping track of what's due and when. If your child is not yet able to write, write it for him or her. Teachers generally give students tips on how to study but it takes time to develop good study habits. To reinforce good habits at home, you can help manage time to complete assignments. For example, if your eighth grader has a report that is due in three weeks, discuss all the steps he or she needs to take to complete it on time, including:

- Selecting a topic
- Doing research using books and other materials
- Topic and note taking
- Figuring out what questions to discuss
- Drafting an outline
- Writing a rough draft
- Revising and completing the report



Encourage your child to make a chart that shows how much time he or she expects to spend on each step.



Useful Resources for Parents

Homework Help for Free: Students stuck on your homework? Get free help from online tutors!
www.MindZinger.com

Help For Troubled Teens: 7 Step-by-Step Parenting Lessons Will Transform Your Teen -- Fast!
www.TheTotalTransformation.com

"How do I get organized?": Gain 3 hours every day, for life - They laughed at me until it worked!
OrganizeYourselfOnline.com

Teen Discipline: 11 Mistakes Parents Make With Teen Discipline. Parenting Tips!
LifeScript.com

What Can Parent Services Center Offer for Your School?

The goal of the Parent Services Center is not to add more parent involvement programs at your school but to assist with the process of planning and organizing events in parent engagement. The PSC offers the following:

Parent Engagement

National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS)

Six Types of Parent Engagement: Parenting, Communicating, Volunteering, Learning at Home, Decision Making and Collaborating with Community

U.S. Educational System

Title I Program

Academic Performance Index (API) and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)

Promotion and Retention

California High School Exit Exam (CHSEE)

District Policies: Parent's Rights and Responsibilities, Absences/Excuses and Uniform Complaint Procedure

How to help your child with homework

How to prepare for an effective parent teacher conferences

Gang Awareness and Prevention

Parenting Skills

Conduct home visitations

Parent needs assessment survey

Parent-teacher connection

Conduct telephone tree

Community resources

Referrals

Parent engagement consultation

Oral and written translation

Power School and Zangle

Family Literacy Classes: Family Math, Reading, and Science

Truancy and Attendance

California School Standards

Cultural Awareness and Sensitivity Training

Parent Assuring Student Success (PASSport to Success): Parent Attitude, Home Learning Environment, Reading Skills, Homework and Learning Expediter, Thinking Skills, Study Skills, Note Taking and Prepare for Test

How to reduce cultural barriers to parent engagement with language minority families

How to make an effective home visitation with language minority families

Fatherhood

Friendly School

Effective communication with language minority families

Family Friendly School

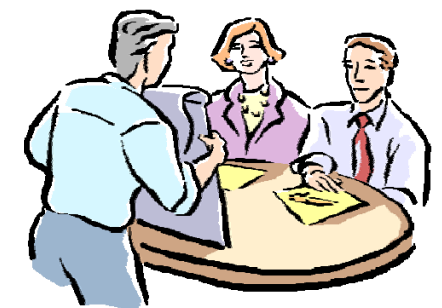
First Day of School Holiday

How to create a parent center

Basic School Site Council

Healthy ways to work out problems

Bullying



The Parent Services Center has skilled, multilingual parent trainers who will work to promote parental awareness in all school functions, be it academic or extracurricular.