

Family Engagement Cohort

PROUD 2 BE



Unionville Elementary School

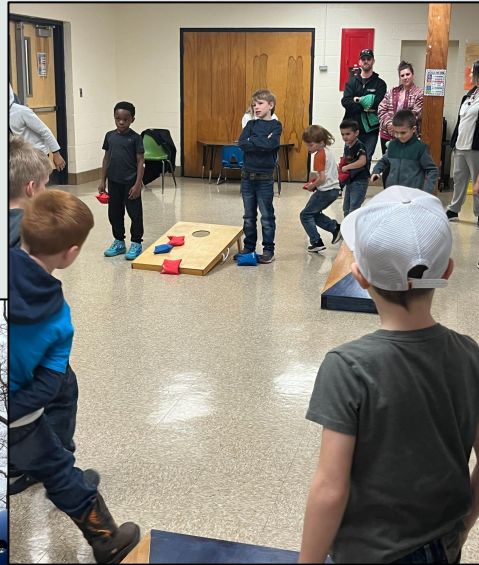


Aimee Jakubik
Principal

Problem of Practice - Daily School Attendance

UES is tackling this problem through family engagement.

This school year, we focused on building relationships with families.



Takeaways from Cohort 2023-2024 School Year:

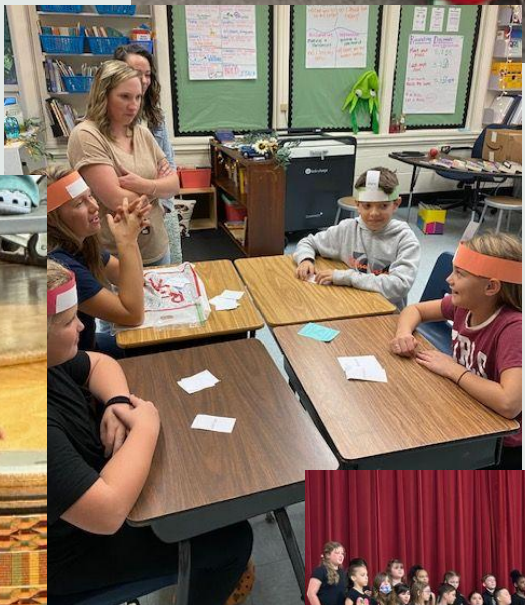
- UES will hold parent sessions to emphasize the importance of regular school attendance.
- UES will increase opportunities to engage our families.



Lightfoot
Elementary School
Orange County,
VA



Merilee R. Grubb, Principal
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Takeaways and Implementation of New Ideas, Strategies this year:

Realizing and reflecting upon the challenges we face in the problem of practice - **family engagement in homework**

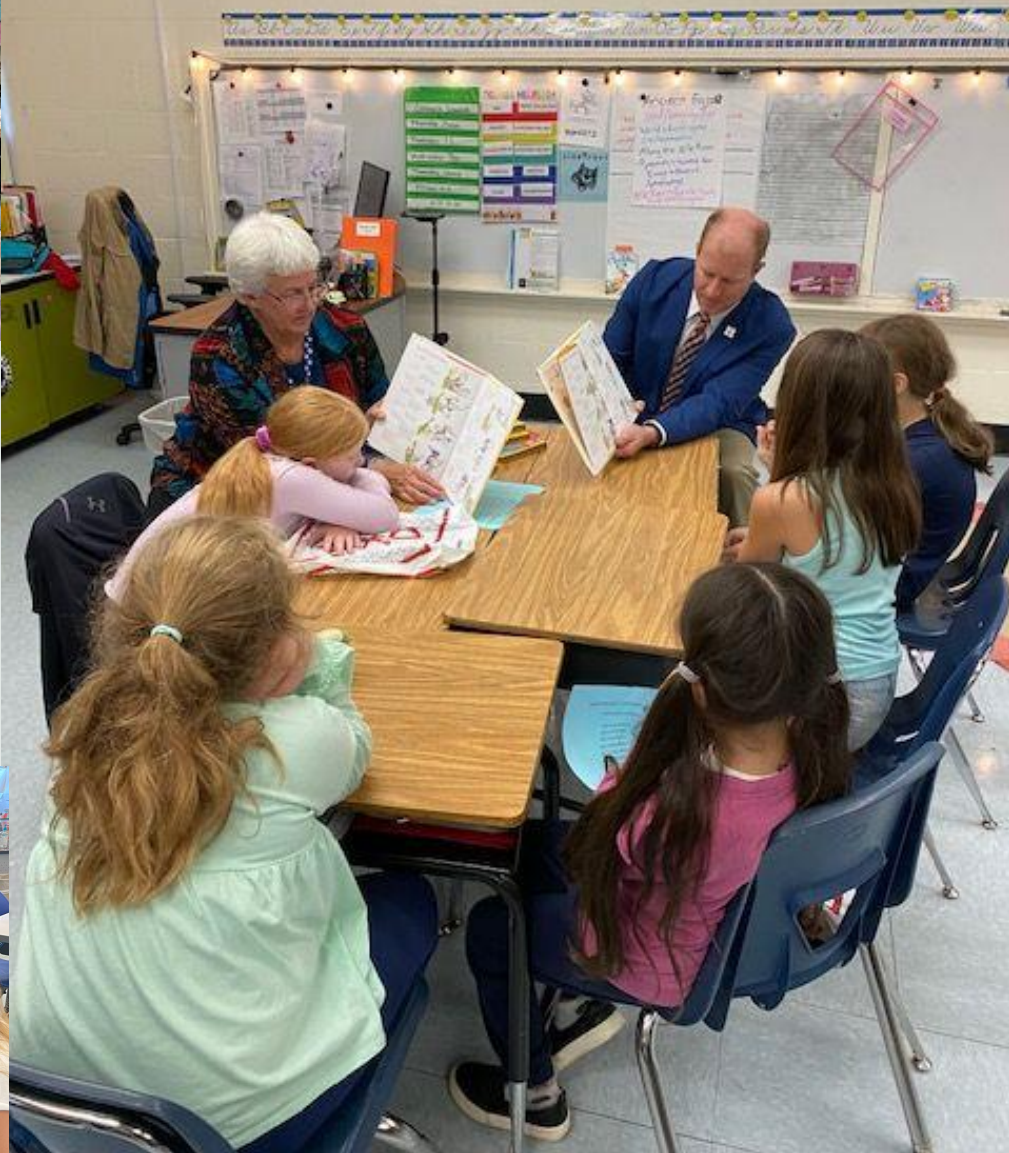
Communication ~

Supported relationships via social media, email, and website - allowed focus on homework, providing more family resources

Personal letters and phone calls home for improvement in attendance and on homework, study for tests

Training ~

Reading Night and STEAM Night to train families on strategies for reading and Math with their children and playing literacy games, as well as giving resources



Takeaways from Cohort for Next Year

Easy ideas~

Communicate effectively and develop relationships by:

Include professional development for staff on the importance of family involvement

Use of social media, email, and website

offering families opportunity to train on use of tools, games, and strategies with their child





Locust Grove Primary School-Orange County Public Schools

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Takeaways from Cohort for Next Year:

Problem of practice: daily school attendance & building on practices of family engagement

- School culture and vocabulary that highlights attendance as a part of a child's comprehensive school experience.
- Take the initiative in creating positive relationships on family terms.
- Invitations of engagement are important.





Takeaways from Cohort for Next Year

Easy ideas

School Culture

- Build on
 - celebration of regular & disciplined school attendance.
 - school related events and opportunities.
 - current and potential community partnerships.



Communication

- Regular positive and proactive phone calls.
- Daily personal calls from staff to those missing school.
"We missed you today!"
- Celebrate excellence in school attendance.

Locust Grove Elementary School

Dr. Eileen Oliver-Eggert, LGE
Principal

Brandi Shumake, LGE/LGP
Assistant Principal



#WHEREEAGLESTAKEFLIGHT





Takeaways from Cohort and implementations this year:

Some of the practices that we implemented this year were affirmed in this cohort such as:

- Offering PTA meetings in person and virtually
- Monthly Perfect Attendance and Eagle of the Month Certificates
- Small Group Sessions focused on Improving Attendance
- Increased Student Programming to support student belonging (Student ambassador program, clubs, activities, etc.)

These activities were put in place to support our problem of practice-increase attendance & parent involvement, as well as an outreach for families.



Additional takeaways from the cohort include:

- Two way family communication
- Training for families regarding the use of and access to student data
- A better understanding of family communication preferences
- Develop new opportunities for family involvement



New Ideas to Better Engage Every Family

Improve Communication:

- Offer Tutorial Sessions for Parent Portal & Canvas and incentivize this at engagement events
- Outreach from school personnel to families that do not sign up for conference
- LGE will be more proactive with communication in Spanish/languages to our families
- Utilize data to ensure communication is reaching all families

Improve Opportunities for Engagement:

- Hold a Celebration night of the diverse families in the LGES community (music, dance, food, dress) possibly during Hispanic Heritage Month
- PTA activities will be better communicated to families to allow for more representation
- Summary of topics provided for parent teacher conferences with an option for the family to provide feedback or ask questions
- Provide processes for parent requested support and information from the school counselor's webpage
- Continue to build on the positive practices to celebrate students and build a stronger sense of community





Orange Elementary School



Sherri T. McGhee, Principal

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Takeaways From Our Cohort Experience

- Varying types of communication
- Incorporating higher efficacy-based activities
 - interactive homework
 - home visits
 - home learning support
- Offering Childcare to support increased engagement from families during parent events
- Encourage and invite extended family members to attend school events
- Alternating times of events and offering a virtual option

New Ideas, Knowledge, and Tools to Better Engage Every Family



- Reflect on our engagement with families
- Incentive for attendance and behavior
- Utilize more impactful methods of communication and engagement
- Ensure that all communication and school signage represent languages spoken by families
- Continue to offer clubs and after school activities to engage families
 - STEAM Night
 - Reading Night
 - 5th Grade Play
 - ELL Game
 - Math Club
 - Girls on the Run
- A positive phone call or postcard home within the first two weeks of school





Gordon-Barbour Elementary School

Orange County Public Schools

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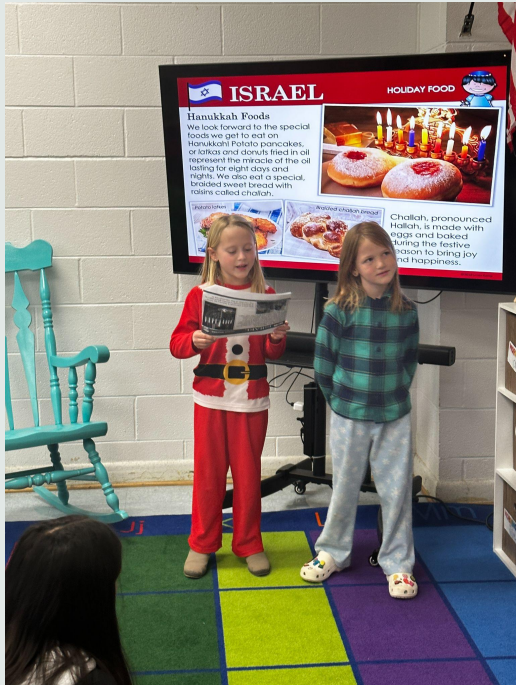
Key Takeaways

- Eliminating one-way communication.
 - The Warm Transfer
 - The Ten-Second Rule
 - Administrator Check-Ins
- The Efficacious Family - Classroom teachers must take an active role in teaching families where to access necessary materials and ensuring they are aware of what their child is studying, when they will be assessed, how they did, and what is coming up next.
- Replacing the signature with a question/conversation starter
- The Transparent School Model



Moving To Action

- Empowering Families
 - Moving from a signature to a question:
 - Today, we learned about _____. Please have Anna tell you about it and write what she said below.
 - Transparent communication that empowers families to support their child's learning
- Improvements in basic customer service:
 - Challenge the office staff to follow the Ten-Second Rule and to utilize the Warm Transfer
- Administer parent surveys regarding the family experience
- Visioning and strategic planning for the Parent Teacher Organization
- Improving education and awareness regarding the long-term effects of chronic absenteeism
- Identify volunteer opportunities and seize them





Locust Grove Middle School Orange County, VA

Marlene Rombach, Assistant Principal
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Takeaways!

1. Most of the engagement that impacts learning happens in the home
2. People will engage to the extent they feel competent
3. How welcoming is the environment in the school (signs)
4. Connect the learning to family culture, experience

Problem of practice: In the third quarter, about 20% of students at each grade level were failing at least one core class. Approx. 8% were failing three or four core classes.

It has been challenging to get parents to regularly assist with parent meetings, checking Powerschool and Canvas for assignments.



Strategies to increase parent engagement

Beginning of the school year:

1. **Parent University:** Parent information nights in the beginning of the year to focus on: grading scale; tips and tricks for Canvas and Powerschool; ways they can help organize their student
2. Teachers to make personal phone contact to the parent of each student within the first month of school.
3. Teachers create weekly or biweekly newsletters to inform parents of assignments, tests, quizzes, etc. This will focus on what parents can be doing at home to help support their student.



Strategies to increase parent engagement

Throughout the school year:

4. Conduct team partnership meetings with the struggling students. These meetings include parents, student, teachers and admin.
5. Targeted parent information sessions of students that are struggling.
6. Host family game night (bingo).
7. Teachers to reach out to those parents of students they need to meet with for PTC conferences.



PHMS FAMILY ENGAGEMENT 2023-2024





PHMS FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

What New Ideas, New Knowledge or Tools from our cohort experience have you taken away?

- Meeting families where they are, ways to effectively communicate, welcome and partner with them in their child's education.
- What role does communication play in the success of a student. Staff Activity -will provide insight into how staff perceived communication with families in the 2022-23 school year and the vision for the 2023-2024 school year.
- Family engagement and communication is not about doing more, but doing it well differently
- Area of focus - SWD student population



PHMS FAMILY ENGAGEMENT 2023-2024



Goals

- We will form relationships with our families of students with disabilities.
- The focus will be in educating parents on how they can assist their child with the academic expectation in middle school and how we can create an open line of communication
- Increase PTC and IEP/504 Meeting Attendance

Action Plan

- Transition Plan for incoming 6th grade students and families
- Home visits to welcome families - Pre-service Week
- Create an effective two - way communication practice.
- Create system of measurement in communicating with families.
- Teacher/Staff development on best practice in classrooms that serve SWD in the area of Math and English

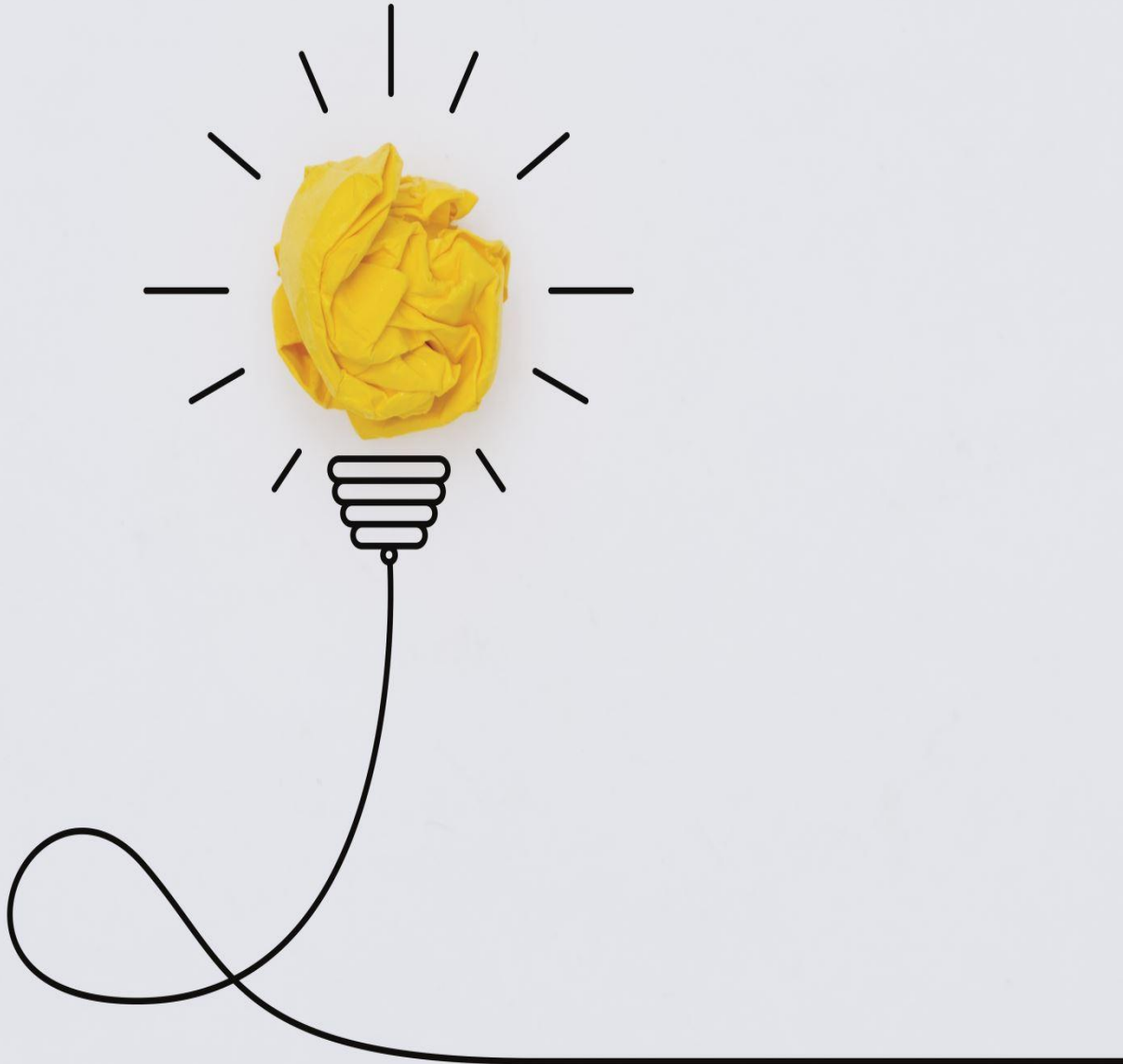




ORANGE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL ORANGE, VIRGINIA

Problem of Practice:
Help improve parent involvement in regards to college
and career readiness, as it pertains to post graduate
plans.

Kevin Weber, Counselor
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WHAT NEW IDEAS, NEW KNOWLEDGE OR TOOLS FROM OUR COHORT EXPERIENCE HAVE YOU TAKEN AWAY?

- Shifting from transactional to relational engagement will allow us to engage parents/guardians as partners and not just receivers of information.
 - This partnering will help make college and career plans an action plan for each student developed with parents and students and monitored by student, parent, counselor, and administration.
- Ensuring our engagement strategies meet the cultural needs of our families
- Strengthening our internal processes within our school to make sure that we sustain our ability to reach our parent engagement goal.



How Are You/Will You Use The New Ideas, Knowledge or Tools to Better Engage Every Family?

- We have put an emphasis on increasing opportunities for our parents, especially our incoming 9th-grade students and parents, so we can build relationships and trust before they even enter the building as true stakeholders.
 - We put on a rising 9th grade student/parents meeting earlier than we ever have, in order to be transparent about the scheduling process, master schedule design and changes. We were able to make many parents' first experience with OCHS a positive one, which we hope can build rapport and trust, hopefully ensuring more engagement as the years go on towards graduation.

The Five Simple Principles Logic Model

