

Parent Communications Notes

March 13, 2014

Esperanza Soriano-McCrary, CMCSS Parent Engagement Specialist, spoke to the group about the “Family School Connection” program. The program will include new opportunities for parents to be involved with their students’ schools and also will provide assistance and support for parents. Portions of the program are still in the developmental and/or trial stages. Included in the Family School Connection program are:

Volunteer Coordinators
Information Coordinators
PowerSchool-Outreach
Parent Engagement Webpage

Volunteer Portal
Parent Ambassadors
Connect U!
Online Summer Registration

Mrs. McCrary spoke about each part of the Family School Connection. The Volunteer Portal has been developed by CMCSS technology staff and is now available on each school website. The page allows you to select a school from a drop-down menu and see what volunteer opportunities are available. If there are events listed, you can sign up on the website. Attached is a copy of the Family School Connection handout detailing each segment of the program.

Dr. Worthington shared that students would be attending school 30 extra minutes per day from April 7 – April 24 in order to make up one day missed due to inclement weather. Additional days missed do not fall within the School Board’s approved make-up plan. The Board will need to make a decision as to whether the additional days missed will have to be made up or not. Dr. Worthington explained that the only place to add days would be at the end of the year and lengthen the school calendar.

Parents discussed the “questions of the month”. March - Is the school system progressing in the right direction? Are the actions and strategic work of the district in line with its mission and vision? If not, what are your concerns? April - Is CMCSS successfully preparing all students for college or careers? If not, what are your concerns?

Parent suggestions included that students might benefit from the experience of taking an online class to better prepare them for their college experience. Another parent recommended more diversity for related arts classes in middle schools. Questions concerning student testing and principal discretion in student discipline also were discussed.



FamilySchool

CONNECTION

Clarksville–Montgomery County School System

Family School Connection

The Department of Defense Education grant requires that we develop a parent engagement model that can be replicated by any school district serving military families across the nation. The work of the parent engagement office has been given an identity and the model now is called Family School Connection. A logo has also been developed to bring recognition of the district's effort to increase parent engagement.

PowerSchool • Outreach

In an effort to achieve 100% PowerSchool parent utilization, I will participate in various outreach events throughout the community to offer parent sign-ups. I will participate in the newcomers Briefing & Fair on Ft. Campbell monthly. I will offer an opportunity to sign-up for PowerSchool, as well as provide additional pertinent information regarding CMCSS.

Volunteer Coordinator

Volunteer Coordinators have been assigned at each school to streamline the volunteer process and develop new meaningful volunteer opportunities.

Connect U!

Connect U! is a program of free classes and workshops designed to increase parental involvement. The classes and workshops will help parents develop the skills needed to implement positive parenting practices. It will empower parents to become effective advocates for their children and help strengthen the family-school connection.

Volunteer Portal

A volunteer portal has been developed by IT and is currently live on each school website. Volunteers can now view all volunteer opportunities district-wide and can select which volunteer opportunity and/or school in which they wish to volunteer.

Parent Engagement Webpage

A parent engagement webpage will be developed to provide an additional location where parents can tap into resources that can help them support their student's success. Resources will include a road map to Common Core and other educational resources.

Information Coordinator

Information Coordinators have been assigned at each school to streamline the parent-school communication process. Volunteer opportunities will be posted by each school on the volunteer portal. They also are asked to use other methods of communicating with both internal and external communities.

Online Summer Registration

Registration forms will be available online to help ease the transition for all families, particularly military families living out of state and transferring to CMCSS. One staff member per school will be assigned to gather and process online registrations. If and when pertinent information is omitted, the staff member will make contact and request the missing information. Summer staff will work Monday, June 30; Monday, July 7; and Monday, July 14, starting at 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Parent Ambassadors

Parent Ambassadors will be selected by the principal of each school. Parent Ambassadors will serve for one year. They will be asked to participate in workshops that cover topics in which parents have less understanding or may not receive correct information. They will help others become informed by sharing the information learned using various communication tools, including facilitating workshops in their own communities.

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