Partnering with Parents

Confratute 2018

Pam Peters
University of Connecticut

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- Doctoral student and research assistant at University of Connecticut: My research interests include issues of equity: parent/school partnerships, pre-identification prep programs, and social/emotional issues of underrepresented minorities and first-generation college students.
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- Mother of 2 gifted children: Ben is 13 and skipped 3rd grade, and Sophie is 7 and started kindergarten early.

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- Former math coach and enrichment cluster leader

What are some benefits of solid parent partnerships?
Common questions parents have about gifted education

How do educators determine if my child is gifted?
What programs does my child’s school have for gifted students?
What if I disagree with or don’t understand something?
How can I get involved or help?
How can I find out what my child does in her gifted program?
Who can I talk to about my child’s perfectionism (or other issue)?

Common frustrations parents have about gifted education

Why isn’t my child in the gifted program?
Why is the G/T program only once a week? My child needs more all the time!
The school/teacher never asks for my input or listens to me!
I have time and skills to offer- but they only ask me to bake cookies or do something at times I’m not available.
Other parents don’t understand that giftedness can be a challenge.
I never get any information about the program, or what they send home is not in my language.
I can’t talk to the teacher during school hours!
What do you do or provide to support the parents of gifted students?

- Classroom Specifics
- Parent Support
- Relationship Building
- Volunteering
Classroom Specifics

- Day to day happenings
- Quick descriptions and explanations: groupings, learning centers, compacting
- Your availability or preference for communication

- Class website or newsletter is great for this type of information

*translators/translation of written materials should be available

Parent Support

- Help parents connect with each other
- Have support materials available-paper or digital
- Keep a list of outside resources or enrichment opportunities

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Relationship Building

- The structure of your school and position will have a huge impact on this
- Be available at Open House and other times
- Be clear on when you can be available to talk with parents, how often you check email, etc. and then stick to that

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Parent Volunteering

- Parent survey on interests and availability, then use that to specifically target volunteers
- Include as many parents as possible
- Does volunteering have to be in classroom during school time?
- Almost every parent can lead a Type I experience

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Questions?

Feel free to reach out to me.

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