

# COFFEE, TEA & TALK CURRICULUM & SCHOOL SUCCESS CONVERSATION SERIES

Landstuhl Elementary/Middle School  
Kaiserslautern, Germany

Landstuhl Elementary/Middle School held its first Coffee, Tea & Talk Curriculum and School Success Conversation Series on Thursday, January 21, 1999, from 3:30pm-6:15pm. It was the idea of the seventh grade team. The team tried to think of a way in which the new seventh grade students' and parents' education could be enriched. The Conversation Series also helped address school improvement goals in math, reading/language arts, and school-home partnership.

At the beginning of the year, the seventh grade team sent a needs assessment survey home to parents with the students. Sixty-four surveys were sent home and fifty were returned. The survey results were used by teachers to inform parents about how to help their children realize personal, academic, and community goals. When all the survey results were in, planning for the Conversation Series began. The school staff was consulted as to how the results of the survey could be addressed. Sessions for the first Conversation Series were set up according to the needs indicated by parents. Session topics included: Multiple Intelligences, Mathland News and Reviews, and Language Arts Tests on Show and Writing issues. Invitations were sent home to parents of all students, and teachers made phone calls to parents of targeted students. Baby-sitting was offered.

The event was held in different rooms of the school, with the opening and closing sessions held in the gymnasium. Coffee, tea, and cookies were donated by the seventh grade team for refreshments.

The event was well received by the approximately 35 parents in attendance. The baby-sitting was utilized. The parents indicated that the sessions were informative and helpful. Parents also indicated that they would like a second conversation series, and that a later starting time would be more convenient.

There will be a second session in the conversation series in the future.

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