
PRINCIPAL'S TEA

Green Middle School

Green, Ohio

Green Middle School organized a Principal's Tea each month to encourage parents to visit the school. Starting with sixth grade, we randomly selected 15-20 names of students and sent their parents an invitation to attend the tea. Our topic focused on "Middle School and What It's About." We held this informational tea in our school library and served refreshments and cookies.

The seventh grade followed with the same topic. For the eighth grade, we invited a high school counselor to talk about scheduling and what to expect in high school.

In November, we conducted the School and Family Partnership survey to identify concerns parents had about their children. The Principal's Tea addressed these concerns. Safety seemed to be a main issue. We invited the school's Director of Safety Issues to speak about what our school district was doing to insure the safety of our children. Our final tea for the year addressed testing issues. The head of the curriculum department spoke about proficiency tests and other standardized testing conducted in our district. She also described the selection of schoolbooks and the development of the curriculum.

Green Middle School obtained a \$3,000.00 grant through the Ohio Department of Education Family and School Partnerships Division. We used very little of the funds to organize this project. We purchased tablecloths, cups, napkins, and plates, along with juice, cookies, and donuts. The locally owned Arabica coffee shop donated the coffee and tea.

The Principal's Tea gave parents a chance for one-on-one communication with the principal and made them feel more comfortable coming into the school. It also gave the principal an opportunity to meet parents who were not likely to come into the school uninvited. All in all, parents were pleased that they had this opportunity to speak with the principal, assistant principal, and department heads in an intimate setting. We plan to continue the Principal's Tea next year.

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