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## **PASSPORT 2000**

### **Northwest Local Schools and Colerain High School Cincinnati, Ohio**

In our district, we have a committee that helps each of the 14 school buildings with their Family Involvement committees. A representative or two from every school serves on the district committee. For the 1998-1999 school year the district committee wanted to conduct a districtwide event, but decided against it because of the construction at every school building. We decided on an event for the 1999-2000 school year that would encourage the community to visit all schools in the district to see the building improvements that their tax dollars supported.

Passport 2000 was scheduled the week after Public Schools Public Pride week. The timing helped the community understand the purpose of the event. We advertised with a full-page ad in the neighborhood newspaper. Team members distributed fliers to be used as placemats in local restaurants and to be put in grocery bags at local grocery stores. Businesses in the community put notices on their marquees.

Passport 2000 began with transportation via our school buses. Maps, drawn up with various routes, enabled travelers to visit every building. Team members decorated the buses so that as they traveled their routes, they advertised the event as well. A district administrator and a student from each high school were on every bus. Travelers played trivia games on the bus and won pencils printed with "Passport 2000." Buses stopped at every school, the senior center, and several businesses.

Schools received money from Ohio Family Involvement Grants to use for enhancements (decorations, food, etc.) in their building. At Colerain High School, Coca-Cola donated beverages and cups, and alumnae donated baked goods. As another fundraiser, individuals could pay to have their signatures included on a scroll that would be placed in a time capsule. A local radio station deejay broadcasted outside.

The district committee hoped for a party atmosphere in every building. Colerain Elementary, Colerain Middle, and Colerain High School planned events to celebrate their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Monfort Heights Elementary had a reception and tours of their new building. Each student made

a flat cardboard bust of themselves that they put in the desk with a shirt from home slipped over the shoulders of their bust and back of their chair. The display produced the powerful effect that every student was in class. Northwest High School dedicated their courtyard. Like Colerain High, they attracted a lot of their alumni. Buildings had science demonstrations in their new science labs, art displays everywhere, and performances by music groups. People were on hand to answer questions and give tours. Community members donated door prizes that participants won at the end of the day. Every building had winners and was able to show the many important activities that occur within a school year.

Approximately 1000 people attended Passport 2000, including alumnae from the Classes of the 1920's and 1930's. Colerain High School felt the day was a huge success, as did the district committee. Some buildings had a great turnout, some did not. Overall, we accomplished what we set out to do—we opened our buildings to the public and they felt welcome.

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