
PARENT/FAMILY BOOK CLUB

Iowa Maple Elementary School

Cleveland, Ohio

The Parent Involvement Committee started the Parent/Family Book Club to provide families with the knowledge and skills necessary to support the school's literacy program. The committee targeted a different grade level each year, and focused on third grade students this year.

The Parent/Family Book Club met weekly after school for eight weeks during the fall and the spring. Each weekly session included read aloud/along activities and literacy strategies for parents and children. Participants received free books to expand their personal libraries at home.

To advertise the program, the committee sent home flyers with students explaining when and where book club meetings would take place. The sessions alternated between mornings and evenings to accommodate parents' work schedules. The flyer had a tear-off section for parents to return to the teachers. Teachers gave the tear-off responses to committee members so that they could call parents to welcome them to the book club meeting.

Parent involvement funds from the school budget supported the Parent/Family Book Club. Community members donated new books to give to the families, and the parent liaison received donations from local stores to provide refreshments for the meetings.

The program achieved positive results. Teachers noticed that the students who participated with their families in the book club knew more about what was expected of them in the classroom. Parents who attended the Parent/Family Book Club watched their children become more confident about their schoolwork. Parents also were able to network with each other on literacy issues. Families reported in evaluations that they enjoyed the time spent together in the meetings, and that they looked forward to the book club meetings next year.

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