
LUNCH FOR PARENT TEAM MEMBERS

Highlands Elementary School

Naperville, Illinois

In an effort to build a strong foundation for the School/Family/Community Partnership (SFCP) Team, the two parent team co-chairs and the principal hosted a lunch for all parent SFCP team members the week after school began and two weeks prior to the first full SFCP team meeting.

The objectives of the Parent Lunch were:

- Introduce all of the parents to each other and make them feel comfortable talking to one another, the parent team co-chairs, and the principal. Providing a relaxed environment and lunch helped everyone feel at ease.
- Explain the goals and procedures for the team. The parent team co-chairs gave each SFCP team parent a copy of the SFCP Handbook prior to the meeting and then reviewed the information during the lunch so that the parents could take notes and ask questions.
- Provide an opportunity for everyone to make suggestions or present new ideas for the year. The team developed the annual plan the prior spring, but there was still an opportunity to make changes and include the new parents' input.

The Parent Lunch was very successful. All SFCP team parents attended. Old and new parents actively participated during the two-hour meeting and personally talked with the principal. The orientation for the parents made the first full SFCP team meeting with staff an upbeat, relaxed meeting without “first meeting jitters.”

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