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## MATH CLASSES

### Byrd Middle School Sun Valley, California

Math scores at Byrd Middle School were not improving as well as reading scores. The Action Team for Partnerships (ATP) recruited a Byrd Middle School math teacher to volunteer his time to teach parents about what their children were learning in math and to explain what each grade level is required to master before moving on to the next level. He demonstrated how teachers taught students new concepts and skills, particularly in algebra and problem solving.

Implementation of the math classes first involved finding out what parents wanted to know about their teens' math curriculum using a survey and word of mouth. After the data was collected, the math classes took shape. Then, the ATP posted dates for the classes on the calendar, and sent flyers announcing the math classes to parents. Parent volunteers issued personal invitations by telephone and sent reminder flyers closer to the dates of the classes. The ATP arranged for space in the building plus the availability of an administrator so the school could remain open from 6-7:30pm. The ATP also found old math books and made a four- to five-page booklet so that parents could complete math problems similar to the ones their sons and daughters complete. A local store donated refreshments to the classes to reduce costs.

The math classes helped parents become more familiar with the math curriculum and better prepared to help with homework. Hopefully, this additional knowledge and assistance will contribute to better math achievement for Byrd Middle School students.

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