

Doughnuts for Dads/Muffins for Moms

*Carver Elementary School
Florence, South Carolina*

Carver Elementary's Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) added a twist to their Doughnuts for Dads and Muffins for Moms events, making them a sweet success. During each event, the children and their parents ate breakfast together before school hours, while the chorus provided entertainment. Students presented their parents with certificates showing appreciation for their attendance. Then, the principal assigned homework to the parents. He asked them to respond to the event by writing a reflection on the importance of being a parent. Students aided their moms and dads with the assignment and turned in their parents' responses for display on the principal's Pride Board.

Due to the large number of students at Carver, organizers scheduled the breakfast events separately. Doughnuts for Dad was the first to occur, with Muffins for Mom following a few months later. Both activities ran from 7:15 until eight o'clock in the morning and took place over the course of two days. The PTO invited half of the moms and dads to attend the first day, and asked the other half to come the next morning.

Because forty percent of Carver students' mothers do not work and are able to participate regularly in school activities, the PTO recognized the importance of designing an event that involved fathers. The early morning breakfast was convenient for fathers to attend, and children enjoyed participating with their dads in a school event. The principal's homework assignments for their moms and dads greatly impressed the students, who were able to see their parents as role models for writing.

Doughnuts for Dad and Muffins for Mom were very successful. With approximately 600 moms, dads, and special guests participating, the PTO accomplished its goal of bringing fathers into the school and increasing men's involvement in the academic life of their children. Responses to the homework assignment were overwhelming, with many parents providing touching thoughts on parenthood. The children were proud to see their parents' writings posted on the principal's Pride Board.

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