

Tenth-Grade Exit Exam Breakfast

*Collinwood Computech Senior High School
Cleveland, Ohio*

For the past two years, Collinwood has hosted successful ninth-grade proficiency breakfasts where parents, students, teachers, and community members receive test preparation materials, play learning games, and build camaraderie to help students pass the exam. The Action Team for Partnerships (ATP) expanded this practice with the Tenth-Grade Exit Exam Breakfast. The Saturday morning event introduced parents and students to the exam and refreshed students who needed to retake any part of the ninth-grade proficiency test.

To start the breakfast, parents were first briefed on the agenda for the event. Next, everyone ate pancakes, bacon, sausage, eggs, grits, and biscuits. The school principal and the ninth-grade principal explained the test in detail. After the breakfast and presentation, parents and students rotated through classes that covered each subject in detail. The classes were continued to the next week, and the 90 participants returned the following Saturday. All students who attended either Saturday event received free school supplies.

The success of this event depended on a strong team effort. The ATP publicized the Saturday morning event through mailings, school morning announcements, and word of mouth. Parents and staff assisted with cooking. Teachers prepared lessons to help parents learn about the test and how to help their children prepare and improve their skills. Community members and administrators assisted by inviting students and their families. Proceeds from the Collinwood Parent Group summer lemonade stand covered the \$400 cost.

At the end of the breakfast, participants received an evaluation form. Students reported that they would pay more attention in class. A parent said, "More schools should be doing activities like this." Others commented on the delicious breakfast. Overall, the evaluation indicated a successful event. ATP members will work next year to increase the number of parents and students attending the Tenth-Grade Exit Exam Breakfast.

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