

Improving School-to-Home Communications

*Bountiful High School
Bountiful, Utah*

“One of our major goals is to improve communication between parents, the community, and faculty members of Bountiful High School,” said Gregory Wilkey, Assistant Principal. The Community Council, Bountiful High School’s (BHS) Action Team for Partnerships, implemented several strategies using technology, print, and human relations to better communicate with families.

In the past three years, BHS has conducted numerous in-service professional development opportunities to increase and improve communication between the school, students, parents, and the community. Faculty attended professional development to create web pages for the classes they teach. Over 75% of the high school’s faculty designed interactive web pages that include a brief biography, course description, course outline, list of required materials, class prerequisites, requests for volunteers, and other information. Families are encouraged to visit these web pages and the school’s redesigned web site which is user-friendly and aesthetically pleasing.

E-mail is used as another technological strategy to increase communication. A group of teachers piloted software that facilitates frequent e-mail communication between teachers and parents. The software enables teachers to automatically e-mail parents on a weekly basis with a greeting and students’ current academic grades and progress.

Recognizing that not all families are comfortable with or have access to computers, BHS continues to communicate through print. Families receive a monthly newsletter from the

school. BHS also provides teachers with stamped postcards, so that they can quickly and easily send a positive message home about a student’s success or recent progress.

Face-to-face communications remain central to building strong partnerships at Bountiful High School. One popular strategy is the monthly “Lunch with the Principal,” welcoming parents and community members. After sharing a meal together, significant time is provided for questions and answers by the principal and/or other BHS administrators. Some lunches have included over 100 participants.

Bountiful High School works hard to provide better and more frequent communications with families. They devised several strategies that allow parents to access general information and information specific to their child’s teachers, classes, and progress. These strategies create a strong foundation on which to reach to all families in multiple ways.

*Gregory Wilkey, Assistant Principal
(801) 402-3900*