

Weekend Family Packet Program

*Kentucky Elementary School
Cleveland, Ohio*

Kentucky Elementary School helped parents take an active role in their children's education through the Weekend Family Packet Program. Each weekend, students in grades 3-5 brought home a packet of work that they could complete with a family partner. The worksheets reinforced skills covered in class the previous week. On Monday, students returned their completed packets and received a reward from their teacher. At the end of the program, the school honored participating families in a special ceremony, which included taking pictures of each family and posting them in the school for everyone to see.

The idea for the weekend packets came from the principal. Teachers played a major role in the program's implementation, creating the weekly grade-level packets, reviewing students' work, and keeping track of which families participated. Kentucky Elementary's Parent Club publicized the program at its monthly meetings, and photocopied and distributed the packets. When the Weekend Family Packet Program ended for the year, the principal created participant awards and studied the correlation between students' participation and their standardized test scores.

In addition to improving standardized test scores, the Weekend Family Packet Program succeeded in informing parents about what their child was learning in school each week and the style of questioning the students would encounter on state tests, allowing families to track students' progress and understand the school's expectations. The packets also helped

parents emphasize the importance of education at home. In the words of one parent, "The program allowed me to help my child at home and showed me what the kids really need to know. Wow!"

Keeping the students and families motivated to participate, and creating family-friendly, but not overly difficult, packets presented a challenge. In the future, Kentucky Elementary will find solutions to these challenges and improve its end-of-program celebration.

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