

## Bring Your Parent to School Day

---

*West Hertel Academy #94  
Buffalo, New York*

Classrooms filled up quickly on “Bring Your Parent to School Day” at West Hertel Academy, and teachers suddenly found themselves with a much older group in their classrooms—the parents. The Parent Involvement Action Team planned the day to acquaint families with their children’s school, routines, and curriculum.

In September, West Hertel Academy relocated. The administrators felt that they needed to get parents into the new building so they would be comfortable with the surroundings. In addition, the administration wanted to introduce the parents to the rigors of the curriculum and let them know what they could do to enhance their children’s academic growth.

After being greeted at the door, parents went to their children’s classes. There they learned about the school’s academic programs and how teachers expected students to behave. At midmorning, the parents met as a group in the school’s Family Resource Center. They enjoyed refreshments and met with administrators, teachers, and community-based professionals, who told them about the services their agencies offer. Parents also learned about special programs, including Closing the Gap and the Sister’s Hospital Clinic. Administrators explained the schoolwide improvement program for academics, and the school’s action team worked to recruit new members and volunteers.

Parents seemed to enjoy their day at school. They left with a clearer vision of the school’s expectations and fewer concerns about the school’s new location. Turnout was so en-

couraging that, even though the school intends to stay in the same building, its action team plans to host the event again next year.

*Mary Fleming, Action Team Chair  
Sheela Suchak, Action Team Member  
(716) 816-4150*