

## Trophy Cases Revisited

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*Abrams Elementary School  
Abrams, Wisconsin*

Abrams Elementary turned two trophy cases in its main lobby into outreach opportunities, presenting changing displays that are bringing its families closer together and the community into the school. To help its families, who come from a wide area, get to know each other better, the school created a Family of the Week display. In the second trophy case, it hosts the Community Artist of the Month.

For the Family of the Week feature, families, selected at random, have the opportunity to bring in pictures, collections, sports items, instruments, awards, and other memorabilia that represent them. The participating student helps set up the trophy case and tells his or her classmates about the exhibit and the meaning of the objects on display. The administration schedules the displays and notifies families that have been selected. Eventually, everyone was asking for a turn!

“Every time a new exhibit goes up, there are parents who look at it and discover that they have a connection to the family on display that they never knew existed. A few have even realized that they were distantly related,” said the principal.

These displays have boosted students’ self-esteem, as they saw their families highlighted, improved their public-speaking skills, and strengthened their organizational abilities as they choose what to include in the display. With the help of the art teacher, the administration also chooses a Community Artist of the Month, whose work and biography

are displayed in the second case. The artist is responsible for setting up the display. Students, parents, and other visitors can learn about each artist’s life and work. The participating artists have been enthusiastic about this initiative, complimenting the school for inviting them to show their work and connect more with the community.

Abrams is very proud of its Trophy Cases Revisited initiative, which it considers an original. It has turned two ordinary display cases into a dynamic opportunity to improve students’ pride and the sense of community. Thanks to these displays, the student, family, and community connections at Abrams have grown much stronger.

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