



Parent-Teacher Partnership

St. Louis, Missouri
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Project Summary

Topic: Parent-Teacher Partnership (PTP)

- Restructuring the organization to meet the needs of the parents and the school's mission.

Importance:

- The activities and structure of the organization need to be realigned to meet the vision for the organization.

Goals:

- Restore PTP to a more academic and family-related focus, and to allow the teachers to play a more integral part and be viewed as experts through presenting educational topics to parents.
- Rewrite By-Laws and Constitution, including definitions of leaders' spiritual, organizational, and behavioral expectations.

Process:

- On-line survey to parents
- Summarize data and share with parents and teachers
- Call for parent volunteers for leadership
- Gather samples of other schools' PTO By-Laws and Constitution
- Rewrite our school's PTP By-Laws and Constitution



Project Results

Process:

- Research—via survey. 78 of 143 families responded.
- Review—survey results and other school's models
- Rewrite—Constitution and By-Laws
- Regroup—Based on lack of parent-driven passion for leadership of the PTP, yet a new direction must be developed

Major issues based on survey results:

- Need to redefine the constitution / by-laws, including responsibilities of leader positions
- Plan fewer small events
- Hold more major events, including educational-themed topics for parents
- Need to communicate better
- Train the classroom liaisons to be more effective
- Allow limited fund raising for items outside the school budget

Abiding Savior Lutheran School,

established in 1984, is located in south suburban St. Louis, Missouri. Our Early Childhood Ministry serves 140 students ages 2-5. The elementary school serves an enrollment of nearly 200 K- 8 students. It is the largest ministry of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church.



What We Have Learned

Successes

- Parents expressed interest and value having a Parent-Teacher Partnership
- Even without a formal PTP in place this year, momentum kept parents moving forward in running the regular major events

Challenges

Need parents with strong leadership skills to step up when using a traditional leadership model of a parent organization. Many parents volunteer in different areas; not all are leadership material. This challenge halted the progress of this project as planned.

Recommendations

- Do away with the traditional leadership model and replace with committees that report directly to the principal. Examples:
 - Educational Events (teacher-led)
 - Mom's Club
 - Special Events/Fellowship
 - New Family Mentors
 - Special Fund Raisers