

RENTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

ELEMENTARY PRINCIPALS SURVEY: PARENT INVOLVEMENT What Opportunities Are Provided for Parents?

The following list is a compilation of parent involvement opportunities provided to parents of students attending Renton Elementary Schools:

Home-School Communication

- August "New Family" Orientation Meetings (evening time)
- Spring and August kindergarten orientations
- August BBQ for all families
- August teacher and/or building welcome letters mailed home
- Principal meets each new family upon registration
- All office staff are encouraged to know and recognize families by name
- All staff wear name tags daily
- Parents are provided:
 - Calendar of year's activities
 - Parent/Student Handbook
 - Classroom newsletters monthly
 - Building newsletter monthly (include parenting tips)
 - Building and program brochures
 - Progress reports
 - (some buildings send weekly)
 - (some buildings send bi-monthly)
 - Report cards
 - Building homework policy; homework expectation plan
 - Information on student homework assignments and projects
 - Special notices (early dismissal)
 - Notice of special after school classes: chess club, drama, math, aerobics, etc.
 - Information on "Family Fun Nights" and other all-school events
 - Schoolwide discipline policy
 - District flyers (sexual offenders, weapons letter, levy/bond information)
- Phone calls by staff
- Voice mail--teachers numbers published
- Site Council voice mail box for input
- Classroom phone tree
- ESL phone tree
- Reader board messages
- Parent conferences
 - (some include students)
 - (at least one late evening scheduled)
- Parents at ET meeting
- Parents asked to check and sign homework

Use of regular Tuesday (or Friday) Take Home Day
Success letters
Positive Post Cards
Certificate of Merit
Super ***** Certificate and Letters
PTA notices
Attendance calls
Discipline calls
Daily academic/behavior forms for some students
Parent Forums
Parent Resource Center
Classroom observations
Parent representation on school committees
Teacher representation on PTA committees
Student assemblies and programs
Scheduling of performances to provide optimal attendance
and space for families
School website
Principal makes personal calls/sends letters and personal
thank you notes to parents whenever possible
Principal messages in newsletter recognizing all levels
of parent support
“Take Ten for Reading” home visits by principal
Home visits by staff--family liaison, counselor
Parent support groups
Photo displays of students and students with families
Special events highlighted on exterior bulletin boards
Reading is Fun program
All-School Million Minutes reading program
Principal writes on every report card
Principal and staff visit Head Start/ECEAP parent meetings

Parents as Supporters of School Activities

Fundraising
Field trip chaperons
Room parents
Classroom volunteers
Assisting in library
Assisting in computer lab
Assisting on playground
Sharing special talents in classrooms
Selling popcorn
Assisting in school store
Assisting in orientation on opening day
Assisting in health screening
Offering after school clubs (ecology, drama)
Enrolling their children in after school clubs (computer, Sci. Adv., Spanish)

Attending and/or coordinating functions at Open House
 Attending and/or coordinating school assemblies
 Attending and/or organizing school events (science fairs)
 Attending and/or organizing skating parties
 Attending and/or organizing entertainment programs (evenings)
 Attending and/or organizing Family Mariner or Tacoma Rainiers baseball nights
 Attending and/or organizing Title 1 Parent Night
 Attending and/or organizing class or grade level activities/celebrations
 Attending and/or organizing Family "Fun Nights"--
 Math
 Reading
 Bingo for Reading
 Dance/Sock Hop
 Games
 Storytelling
 Truck
 Attending and/or organizing awards assemblies
 Receiving levy/bond information
 Providing treats for staff
 Serving on Aesthetic Committee
 Volunteering through community groups/agencies
 West Hill Community Council
 Fire Dist. 20
 KC Skyway Library
 Local VFW Post
 Churches (offer tutoring)
 Neighborhood Associations
 Neighborhood libraries
 Coordinating Volunteer Recognition Wall
 Serving as parking lot monitors
 Serving as Math-a-Minute volunteers
 Organizing holiday food drives
 Recycling clothes
 Supporting families in need due to illness and/or death
 Participating in the 5th grade camp project
 Providing kindergarten snacks
 Helping in all-school programs like Reading Is Fun; providing books and reading
 program
 support
 Bringing items to the "Family Cultural Night"--desserts, artifacts, music, family
 treasures
 Organizing support for distant schools (Ghana)

Parents as Learners

Attending PTA meetings with special topics
 Attending Open House

Attending Back to School or Group Conference Night
Participating in parent/community classes in computer lab
Volunteering in classrooms
Participating at ET meetings
Attending parent/teacher and IEP conferences
Reading newsletters and take-home projects
Following up on counselor suggestions for reading, etc.
Reading information on community resources
Reading notices of board meetings and other
 special district learning opportunities
Reading school and district websites
Observing in classrooms
 (frequent initiations)
 (special classroom events)
Using the Parent Resource Library
Attending school, district, and PTA workshops
 School reform information
 Information on WASL and ITBS
 Evening parent workshops--how to support learning to read
 LAP/Title 1 conference
 Workshops provided by staff--reading, math, LAP
 Family Guide to Second Step Curriculum workshops
 District workshops such as 40 assets
Attending school board meetings
Serving on district committees such as ERC
Attending parenting classes
Previewing instructional materials before adoption
Taking volunteer training
Participating in parent/student/teacher book clubs

Parents as Teachers

Mentoring
Volunteering
Home tutoring
Classroom tutoring
Playground volunteers
Assisting with art projects
Assisting with computers
Monitoring behavior/assignment communications
Reading to kids 20 minutes a night
Monitoring and helping with homework
Following through on teacher-generated suggestions
Supervising on field trips
Providing opportunities for cultural and other enrichment
Taking children to the library
Providing summer learning opportunities (math program)

Promoting student involvement in PTA programs such as Reflections
Teaching in after school activities
Teaching at 5th grade camp
Sharing personal experience/talents with students
Becoming district employees

Parents as Educational Decision Makers

Site council membership
Building committee membership--continuing
 CSIP
 Emergency preparedness
 LAP Advisory
Ad hoc building committee (i.e.,parking)
PTA leadership roles
 School
 District
 State
District committee membership
 Citizens Advisory Committee on Instruction
 Capital Projects Advisory
 Diversity Advisory
 District General Instruction Committee
 Enrollment Review Committee
 Budget Advisory
 Special Education Advisory
 Gifted Education Advisory
 Renton Technology Coordinating Council
 Other ad hoc committees
Becoming school board director
Working with legislators and county council members
Responding to parent survey
Sharing concerns with appropriate individuals
Organizing parent meetings