

Program Ideas

Welcome Wall

Celebrate your school's diversity with a mural. Provide the paints and banner paper and invite all families to illustrate some aspect of their heritage. Hang the mural at a school entrance for everyone to see.

Monday Morning Coffee Drive-Thru

Give parents and guardians a warm greeting along with a doughnut, coffee, and information on the week's activities as they drop their children off for school.

International Food Night

Introduce families to foods from around the world with a buffet dinner. Label each dish; include the country of origin. Also provide educational information on the countries represented.

Saturday Success Academy

Offer parents workshops on such topics as parenting skills, graduation expectations, financing college, test-taking skills, and computer skills while students participate in review sessions for course exams and standardized tests.

Game Night

Provide board games for families to play in teams or as individuals. Organize tournaments to help families get to know new people.

Career and Job Fair

Introduce students to a variety of career and job opportunities. Ask a select group of parents to talk in detail about what they do. Foster small group discussions and show-and-tell by providing each parent with a display area.

Family-Student-Faculty Sports Event

Organize games of softball, kickball, volleyball, or basketball. Have parents, students, and teachers compete against each other, or mix up the teams.

Principal's Perspective

Invite parents to a PTA meeting or informal chat to hear the school principal talk about the school curriculum and the vision for the school. Also have the principal discuss opportunities for families to be involved in the school.

Community, Kids, and Parents

Each day of the week, have a different community business work on a project with a specific grade for about an hour. A local garden center could pot spider plants with 2nd-graders. A

cooking school could help 5th-graders make quick and healthy snacks. Invite parents to join in the fun.

Student Talent Showcase

Let kids show off for their parents. Host an open mic poetry night, an exhibition of science and math projects, or a variety show filled with skits, magic, music, and dance.

Classroom Volunteers

Encourage parents and guardians to volunteer in their children's classrooms. They can help teachers with special activities or everyday needs. Distribute information on additional volunteer opportunities for the year.

Reading Circles

Ask local authors, librarians, teachers, or parents to host family book discussions or simply read a favorite story or book to students. Use this opportunity to establish a reading or book club corner in your school library.

Family Dinner

Plan a dinner for families, teachers, school administrators, and community leaders. Invite just one grade or the entire school. Ask each family to bring a dish to share. End the evening with some educational games.

Dads Club

Launch a dads club to promote the involvement of fathers and other male role models. Have club members select a special school-based project to work on and commit to participating in father-child and family events.

A Penny Saved

Show kids and parents how to save for a college education. Offer a workshop that provides useful tips and strategies to help make college possible.

PTA Membership Drive

Ask the entire community to join PTA! Post membership fliers around the school, advertise in local newspapers, and have a membership table at the week's basketball games and other school events.

Craft Extravaganza

Set up craft stations where kids and families can decorate crowns and capes, learn how to quilt or crochet, make pipe cleaner animals, scrapbook, paint ceramics, design jewelry, and more. Ask local craft stores to donate supplies and volunteers.

Black History Month Assembly

Celebrate black history with a school-wide assembly featuring presentations by community members and students. Welcome parent participation.

School Tour

Invite parents to visit the library, computer lab, auditorium, track, music room, and more to see where students spend their time at school.

Family-Student-Faculty Sports Event

Organize games of softball, kickball, volleyball, or basketball. Have parents, students, and teachers compete against each other, or mix the teams up.

Family Fun Festival

Set up booths with food, face painting, and arm wrestling—as well as information about school programs, community resources, and PTA membership. Organize carnival games, skits, and indoor relay races. And don't forget to offer door prizes!

Meet Your Computer, Meet Your Student

Teach parents about cyberbullying and how to monitor their children's online activities. Give them hands-on experience in the school computer lab exploring online social forums.

FOR QUESTIONS AND ASSISTANCE CONTACT:

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