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Lessons from the Parent Mentor Program

Opening Activity

- Fill in the following statement:

Hello, my name is (Full name). In my line of work, as a (job title) with (school, district or organization name), I wish I had the ability to (share super power) because (why this superpower would benefit your work).

The Parent Mentor Program

- Developed over 20 years ago
- A model for parent engagement and parent leadership development
- Holistic approach to education
- The Parent Engagement Institute with LSNA and SWOP
- Now within 72 schools across the state of Illinois
- Working with over 600 parents and teachers with 15,000 students daily

Experience at MOSTA

- First semester at Michelle Obama School of Technology and the Arts
- Program structure
- 5 Parent Mentors
- 4th and 5th grade classrooms
- Hopes for next year

Impact of Parent Engagement

- Increase in student achievement
- Higher grades and test scores
- Higher graduation rate
- Higher expectations for students
- Students who are farthest behind make the greatest gains
- Bridge a gap between home life and school life
- Reduces negative behavior
- Consistent involvement results in better transition decisions

Most Accurate Predictors of Student Achievement

- Families are able to:
 1. create a home environment that encourages learning.
 2. communicate high, yet reasonable, expectations for their children's achievement and future careers.
 3. become involved in their children's education at school and in the community.

Initial Training

- Introduction to Public Life
 - Setting Cohort Values
 - Importance of Relationships
 - Public Life vs Private Life
 - Relational Engagement
 - Power Analysis
 - Professionalism
 - Goal Setting

Friday Trainings

- Academic, Instruction and Curriculum Trainings
 - Professional and Personal Development Trainings
 - Family and Community and/or Conditions for Learning Trainings
 - Leadership Trainings
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- Accomplished through the collaboration between parent cohort, school staff and admin, community organizations, community institutions etc.

Shared Experience Activity

Ideas to Increase Parent Engagement

- Build a culture across all school staff to engage family life with school life
 1. Speak straightforwardly and offer concrete resources
 2. Accommodate to language and cultural differences
 3. Welcome parents as advocates
 4. Mindfully engage with home life
- Build a culture where goals are shared throughout the schools year
 1. Communicate monthly
 2. Initiate a classroom volunteer program
 3. Have academic workshops after conferences or report card pick up dates
 4. Build a parent resource center