

Parent Involvement

AT ITS BEST

by John Campin

Super Moms and Watch D.O.G.S.



Have you heard of the nationally-known program called Watch D.O.G.S.? This stands for Dads of Great Students (Fathers.com). The past two fall sessions we have had a kick-off meeting for all father figures wanting to be involved in school. Dads, grandpas, and uncles learn how they can come to school and participate during class, help out at lunch, use their skills in our two Outdoor Classrooms, or play at recess. When they sign up to be a Watch D.O.G., a shirt is given to them and their child to wear at school.

You should see the proud faces of the father figures and children. Not only are the father figures making an impact on their child, but also it seems that all the students in the class shine with smiles on their faces as a male role model joins them in their classroom!



PHOTOS BY JOHN CAMPIN

Since Watch D.O.G.S. was such a hit, our Gomez Heritage moms said, "Mr. Campin, why don't we have t-shirts?" My response was, "You are right! I will give you three weeks to come up with a program and design for the shirt." Three weeks later, I attended the meeting to discuss the program and there were over 20 mothers

waiting to describe what they came up with, along with their new logo: Super MOMS. The mother figures participate in similar activities as the dads. Each mom has a pink shirt with their SUPER MOM logo on the front and our school name on the back. The moms run the program and it is not uncommon to see five to ten pink shirts volunteering each day! The Super Moms even pick up all recycling each Friday morning — more than 50 classrooms of paper!

Want more parents involved in your school?

Want to see and feel your school climate filled with positivity?

Can your school match our list of over 120 Super Moms and Watch D.O.G.S.?

It only takes one person on staff to get a program like Watch D.O.G.S. and Super Moms started. GO FOR IT!



John Campin is a Teacher, Mentor, Instructional Facilitator, Principal, and Parent Engager at Gomez Heritage Elementary, Omaha, Nebraska

