

Parent Involvement

AT ITS BEST

by John Campin

Parent Field Trips

Have you ever planned a Parent Field Trip? This is one of the best parent involvement strategies a school could implement! Each year at Gomez Heritage, we take three to four Parent Field Trips. Imagine a note coming home asking parents to sign up for a field trip themselves rather than their child. Parents are always excited when asked in the hallways or at our Principal Coffees to attend a field trip designed especially for them.

The first step a school should take is to ask the parents where they would like to go on a trip. During the first Principal's Coffee in September, I ask parents for ideas. Adults talk with each other with enthusiasm while I ask that each table discuss some possibilities. Our parents have come up with ideas such as baseball games, the local pumpkin patch, or even a show at one of our local theaters. After our initial discussion, I discuss the field trips with our two Bilingual Liaisons; together we start planning. Here are some of the trips we have taken in recent years:

- Fontenelle Forest to hike
- The Rose and Orpheum Theaters for plays
- High Ropes Course for team building
- Henry Doorly Zoo to see the new animals and aquarium
- IMAX Theater to learn about sharks or deserts
- Creation Station to paint sculptures
- Trolley to downtown Omaha for ice cream
- Village Inn to practice ordering food at a restaurant after their English classes

This is just a short list of many trips parents have taken during my tenure. These trips can be planned for day, night, or weekends. The parents appreciate the opportunities we provide and take advantage of them. What an awesome sight it is to see a group of parents riding along with me on a school bus!

- Do you want more parents involved at your school?
- Have you ever considered taking 25 parents on a High Ropes Course?

Go for it! You will be pleasantly surprised and rewarded for the relationships you will build with your parents and how much more involved the parents will be following an exciting trip!



Photos by John Campin

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