Collaborating with Parents to Promote Student Achievement

Hosting a Literacy Conference at Your School

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Our Conference Histories

• 2011-12 School Year
  o Began as Two Separate events

• Overlapping Goals
  o Community Connections
  o Student Achievement

• Combined 2013
  o Make better use of resources
  o Meet Community needs
Parent Literacy Goals

• Increase Student Academic Achievement
• Promote the School-Parent Partnership
• Engage in Community Outreach
• Enhance the TCMS Library Brand
Year One
Parent Literacy Conference

• Opening General Session -
  Sue Corbett presented “Raising Readers”

• Parents each attended two 30 minute concurrent sessions following the general session
  Study Skills
  Online Research
  Global Literacy
  Teen Literature
  Teen Safety Online
  Writing Skills
  S.T.E.M.
Year Two

Parent Literacy Conference

- Conference Consisted of Three 30 Minute Sessions
  - Selecting Literature for Teens
  - Online Databases
  - Study Skills
Reflections From First Two Years

Parent Literacy Conference

• Disappointing Parent Attendance

• Parent Feedback was Very Positive

• Bottom Line: Program is valuable, but we need more parent participation to justify the man-hours put into conference organization
Technology Literacy Goals

• Promote Student Technology Leaders in School

• Create Innovative ways to use New & Known Technologies in the classroom

• Increase Technology Literacy Skills of Parents & Students

• Share Knowledge & Skills with the Community
Year One
Teen Technology Leadership Conference

• Teen Technology Week - March 5-9, 2012
  o One Day Conference
    ▪ STEAM
    ▪ Promethean
    ▪ iPods
    ▪ eReaders
    ▪ Camtasia
    ▪ Prezi
    ▪ Windows Movie Maker

• Presenters
  o Teachers
  o Community Experts
  o Students
    ▪ Taught themselves a New skill
    ▪ Created & Shared Presentations
Year Two

Teen Tech Week - Get Connected

- Teen Technology Week
  - Open House
  - Students visited through Elective classes
  - Students Created Centers
  - Focus Computer Coding & Gaming
    - Scratch
    - Codecademy
    - Voki (Voki.com) - Video Avitar
    - Face Your Manga - Personal Avitar
  - Technology Trivia Game
    - Guess “Job” of older devices
    - Modern Counterpart
  - Assistive Technology
    - Disabilities
    - Injuries
Reflections - Year One & Two

Technology Literacy Conference

- Students
  - Connected Peers & Adults
  - Gained Confidence & Knowledge
    - Learned New Skills
    - Presented to Peers

- Growth in Technology Club
  - 15 to 37 members over 2 years

- Scope Limited
  - SOL Writing Testing - BOTH Years
  - Student Access
    - 42 out of 1,200 students - year one
    - 350 of 1,280 students - year two
  - Limited Student Leadership
    - Due to testing schedule
Year Three - Combined
Parent & Technology Literacy Conference

October 15, 2013
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Year Three

Parent Literacy Conference

- Scale kept small with 4 sessions in two classrooms
  - Specialty Center: Transitioning to Middle School
  - Writing Composition: Online Safety for Teens
Year Three
Technology Literacy Conference

- Dual Format
  - Parent & Student Session
    - MackinVia - CCPS eBook platform
  - Open House
    - Public Library
    - Devices for Dummies
    - Student Presentations
      - Google Docs
      - Google Presentation
      - Google Forms
      - Apple - ios 7
      - Building a Personal Computer
Reflections - Year Three
Parent & Technology Literacy Conference

• Combining Events
  o Worked Logistically
  o Accomplished Goals

• Students
  o Shared skills with Adults
  o Increased Confidence

• Attendance
  o Parent Literacy Numbers still low
  o Technology Literacy Audience still limited
Future Considerations

• Adapt to Community Needs
  o Avoid Evenings

• August Educational Seminar
  o Teacher work week
  o Fee Day
  o Summer Reading Program

• Online education
  o Webinars
  o Archiving Presentations
  o Instructional Video Library
  o LibGuides
  o 24/7 Access
Literacy Conferences in Your School
Tips for Getting Started

• Schedule your Date Early
  o Avoid Date Conflicts
    ▪ Communicate
      • Feeder Pattern Schools
      • Community Relations Department

• Identify School Community Needs
  o Evaluation Forms
    ▪ Teachers & Parents
  o Use information to create concurrent sessions

• Start Small
  o Use what you learn for growth
Tips for Getting Started

• Presenters
  o Personal Request
    ▪ Face to Face
    ▪ People willing to help & share

• Incentives
  o Budget
    ▪ Guest Speaker or Local Author
  o Recertification Points for Teachers
  o Documentation for Summative Portfolios

• Include Community Resources
  o Community & Business Partners
  o Public Library
Tips for Getting Started

Publicize like CRAZY

• Back to School Nights
• Announcements
• Website Presence
• Push Notifications on Apps
• Mass e-mail
• Robo Phone
  ○ Parent Link
• Flyers & Posters
Create a Welcoming Environment

• Provide an Informal Atmosphere

• Signage
  o Direct Participants to Seminar Locations

• Student Greeters
Participant Take Aways

• Provide paper for parent notes

• Provide Session Handouts

• Post presentations online for viewing later
Final Touches

- Evaluation surveys for parents
- Follow-up conversations with attendees
- Thank you notes to presenters
- Meet and Debrief with Administration
Session Ideas
Online Research

Beyond Google and Wikipedia: Helping Your Child with Online Research

CCPS students are fortunate to have a wealth of online databases available to meet their research needs. See how to access and navigate these databases and learn why common search engines and Wikipedia are not considered to be appropriate sources for academic research.
Unlock the leadership potential in your child! Through simple activities at home, you can develop your child’s awareness of local, national, and global events and issues. Learn strategies to promote critical thinking and reflection on topics important to our world.
Transitioning to Middle School: Getting Involved, Getting Organized, and Studying Effectively

Moving to middle school is an important milestone in your teen’s life. Here are some tips to make this big step as smooth as possible.

Developing Study Skills in the Middle School Student

Is a lack of study skills holding your teen back from his/her full potential? This seminar teaches practical ways that you can assist your child in developing good study skills.
Great Escapes: Wonderful Book Suggestions for Teens

Come see what your school library has to offer. Listen as we share some of the great books available to students. Ideas for fiction, non-fiction, gifted and reluctant readers will be shared.
Teen Safety Online

Parenting Teens in the Age of Digital Literacy

Educate yourself regarding issues related to teens’ use of modern technology and social media. A special emphasis is placed on teen safety online. Taught by a Chesterfield County police officer, this class is highly informative and encouraged for all parents.
What Does Great Writing Look Like?

Learn how students’ writing is evaluated and discover the difference between good and great! Discover how to help your children improve their writing without doing the work for them.
This session is for parents of current 8th graders who are considering applying to a specialty program for high school. This session will clarify the application process and inform parents of application deadlines.
S.T.E.A.M. - Rockets, Robotics, and More!

Come learn all about the fantastic S.T.E.A.M. opportunities available at Tomahawk Creek Middle School.
eReaders

B&N Nook
Learn all the cool things your Nook can do!
Ideas for School & Home
Which version works best for YOU?

MackinVia
Get hands on experience using CCPS eBooks. Available to students on any device, anywhere, anytime! Come learn about free Apps & how to access MackinVia with your student.
Public Library

Learn about exciting Teen Programs offered at your Public Library!

• Sign-up for a Library Card
• Set up an Online Account
• Access eBooks
• Author visits
• Teen Activities
Student Presentations

- Camtasia
  - Screen Capture Software
- Prezi
  - Interactive & Internet based Presentation Software
- Movie Maker
  - Movie creation software
  - Blue screen
- Graphics & Gaming
  - Paint & MovieMaker
- Google Docs
  - Docs
  - Presentation
  - Forms
  - Drawing
Student Presentations

- Scratch
  - Student Create Games
  - Built by linking Lines of Code
- Codecademy
  - Online Coding Tutorial
- Hands on Centers
  - Assistive Technology
  - STEAM
- Student Built Computers
- Ubuntu
  - Operating System Creator
- Apple / MAC
- Devices for Dummies
  - Student Support for Device Challenged Adults
Contact Us

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