

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP ACADEMY

Parent Meeting

Group Discussion

February 8, 2005

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What went particularly well Fall Semester 2004/05?

Summary: Parents believed that CPA was a safe environment with a sense of community for students. Parents particularly appreciated the many teachers that frequently and consistently found ways to keep parents informed about what was going on in class and what was going on with student academic progress. Parents also appreciated CPA's administrative staff for many very responsive and for problem-solving.

Specific comments:

1. Email communication is very helpful.
2. Final exam review sheets were very helpful so that parents can assist students at home.
3. Changing class schedules to separate students that were distracting each other.
4. Teachers receptive to parents visiting/dropping into class – changed mood of class.
5. Personal guidance from Flora Russ in tracking credits, scheduling, and counseling. (many parents had this comment)
6. Assignment points for parent signatures on assignments/homework sheets encouraged students to involve parents in class work.
7. Internship program (many parents had this comment)
8. Special resource teacher/program very inclusive.
9. Weekly feedback to parents in math class.
10. Sense of safety.
11. Students connected to adults/help resources.
12. Schedules changed to meet student needs.
13. Sense of belong/made friends in CPA.
14. Overall communication with teachers have been good.
15. Articulation of course themes in upper grades (many comments)
16. Report cards completed/sent home on timely basis.
17. Freshman P.E. class has improved – less overcrowding/safer.
18. Good year for our freshman sons (several comments).

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What were areas for growth/improvement/concern during Fall Semester 2004/05?

Summary: Parents would like to know more about what's happening in the classroom – Classes should have syllabi, weekly class assignment schedules, advance knowledge of long term projects, information on course content/themes. Parents also want to better partner with CPA teachers and staff to help their students achieve – frequent communication/feedback is key. Parents also want more homework assistance, especially in math and other classes where parents are unfamiliar/have forgotten how to do the work.

Specific comments:

1. Establish practice of having course syllabi (most listed parent “wish”).
2. Selective teachers need to work on communicating with parents (for example: promptly replying to emails and phone calls), class structure (planned out assignments/expectations), and appropriate responses to students (for example, replying with sarcasm). Many parents made this comment – seems to be a few specific teachers that need to work on this).
3. Concerned that students taking Spanish will not be prepared for next year because of delay in hiring permanent teacher. (several comments)
4. Overcrowded P.E. classes posed a safety risk and did not encourage healthy physical activity.
5. Provide more immediate feedback to parents on attendance/tardy problems – don't wait until progress/report cards to notify parents.
6. Weekly assignment sheets need to be mailed/emailed/distributed so that parents can monitor completion/students do not tell parents about assignments. (many comments)
7. Students who haven't completed homework should have required homework tutorials after school.
8. Students need more life skills/how to respond to each other in respectful ways.
9. Parent signatures should be required on all assignments.
10. Would like more consistent and timely feedback on student progress/more frequently than the mid-term progress report (many comments).
11. Need to address substitute teacher problems (not enough subs, variable quality in teaching and classroom management skills). Several comments.
12. Some teachers need to be more receptive/responsive to students advocating for themselves.
13. Need more structured avenues for parents to be in the classroom.

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**What were areas for growth/improvement/concern during Fall Semester 2004/05?
continued...**

14. Have one time per month for students to have a voice in CPA/have meeting with parents, volunteers, and staff to find out student needs, wants. (several comments).
15. Need more parent participation.
16. Restructure Back to School Night so that there is more time for parents to learn about course work, teacher expectations, etc. /consider having a CPA Only Back to School Night.
17. Set rigorous academic expectations/structured homework.
18. Include more real world/community involvement experiences for 9th and 10th graders.
19. Develop ways to deal with excess homework and for students who need more homework assistance than available at home – perhaps identify volunteer parent “experts”/establish homework help/support center with knowledgeable staff
20. Need to establish fundraising/grant writing committee.