

Family Feedback Interpretative Report

CMRS K8 values your dedication to your scholar and appreciates your feedback.



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Parent Ambassador Report

INTRODUCTION

The last time we met in person in November, I asked parents and caregivers to provide me with some feedback and answers to some questions. The purpose of this report is to present that feedback with the entire parent community of the Cleveland Metro Remote K8 School. This document will provide information for parents and caregivers. After caregivers read through this document we can move closer to having an established Parent Advisory Committee and setting goals to help impact student achievement in a positive way.

Questions that were asked of parents and caregivers.

Parents were given four questions to answer. These were the following questions.

- What are your suggestions for in-person events for families?
- What support do you need from the school?
- What barriers have kept you from engaging with the school?
- What do you think the Parent Advisory Committee should focus on this school year?

Common Themes

Parents provided a diverse array of responses but there were some common themes.

- Parents expressed that they wanted more support in literacy and reading, whether it was in the classroom or at home. There were suggestions for reading themed clubs for scholars. Suggestions for more in-person reading events for families with book giveaways. Parents also said that they wanted to see handwriting or cursive being taught in some capacity.
- Parents want their children to get more time socializing with schoolmates. Parents suggested extracurricular activities like sports and dance and also school dances or celebrations.
- More hands-on and interactive activities are what parents want. Suggestions like family game night and cooking classes were suggested. Parents also want to see events or activities that are focused on students demonstrating different academic skills like science fairs or entrepreneurship presentations.

The Relationship Between Supports that Families Need and the Barriers Experienced by Families.

When families have unmet needs, it has a direct impact on how engaged they can be with the school. We asked parents and caregivers what kinds of support they need from the school. We also wanted to know why they themselves or other parents might not be as engaged with the school. With the needs and supports that were expressed by parents, there is a clear connection to why some families may be less engaged. Families stated the following needs.

- Families want more parent meetings.
- Families need support with finding jobs and physical/mental health resources.
- Families need support with internet service.
- Families asked for parenting classes and workshops.
- Families need bus tickets.
- One caregiver expressed the need for a nurse to be onsite for events and field trips.

Caregivers reported the possible barriers that prevent engagement.

- Lack of time and conflicts with work schedules.
- Issues with transportation.
- Concerns with COVID and other viruses.
- A lack of other resources like food, clothing, money and shelter.
- Not being notified of an event in a timely fashion.

I can see a strong connection between the things that families are asking for and how their lack of those supports could impact how engaged they would be with the school. For example, if I or a member of my family has health issues then being around people who could possibly be infected with COVID would be a major deterrent for me attending an in-person event. What we should ask ourselves next is how we can create alternative spaces for those families or how we can ensure safety so they still feel welcomed. As a parent organization we should provide more insight and support to our school leadership. Families that have transportation barriers should be made aware that there are ways for them to get bus tickets so that they can attend events. Any family that is lacking in basic resources should feel more comfortable with attending in-person events so that they can get support from school staff. I believe that if we continue to educate ourselves with our families' needs and barriers that we can better support them and in turn increase engagement with all families.

Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) Focus

The Parent Advisory Committee is a group of volunteer parents that represent the interests of the school community and provide a valuable bridge between the school and the families it serves. With this duty of bridging the gap between families and school, we should have a specific set of goals that we would like to achieve. We should settle on what our focus is for this school year. Parents helped answer this question about where we should concentrate our efforts.

- Literacy
- Social events for students
- Organizing picture day
- Helping to organize extracurricular activities for students, like sports, dance, music, etc.
- Helping to organize a foreign language club
- Supporting attendance goals
- Creating anti-bullying campaign
- Fundraising
- OST and NWEA support
- Working together to increase parent participation.

The PAC should choose a few things from this list to make our focus for the rest of the school year. I would suggest that fundraising be one of tasks for the school year to help fund any projects we may take on this year.

Reliability of Feedback

This feedback and information that I received in November is very valuable but it came from a small sample of parents. We can rely on this information to help guide us but I believe that there are more parent voices within our school community that are just as valuable and I encourage you to share your answers to these questions as well.

Clarifying Questions

I have questions for some of the feedback that I have received that I want to ask here.

- Parents suggested that we have more parent meetings. What do you believe the frequency of meetings should be? As of right now, we meet monthly. If we have more meetings, should they also be held virtually to increase participation?
- Parents stated that they needed a syllabus and also wanted to see a virtual format of a homework folder that parents can review and sign. I want to ask if parents have access to MyPowerHub and access to Schoology. That can give you the semblance of a syllabus. In regards to the virtual homework folder, what grade levels would that service? And do you believe it is fully necessary since we can access all student work through Clever?
- Last, what can we do to increase parent participation and attendance to in-person

events?

Conclusion

Thank you for taking your time to read this report. I look forward to working together with you for the remainder of the school year.