

Responses to Open Response Questions on 2009-10 Gentry Parent-Involvement Survey

Survey
Question
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Which of the following types of communication from the school are you most likely to read?

- ➔ Signed agenda at GMS would be better if having signed on Tuesday instead of Monday.

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Question
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Do you use e-mail to communicate with teachers/staff at our schools? If no, is there a reason you do not?

- ➔ Never had to
- ➔ have had no reason to contact a teacher thus far, but would use it if there were reason.
- ➔ not very often
- ➔ My spouse communicates regularly with teachers via email
- ➔ prefer one on one
- ➔ not sure how to do that... is there a website or direct email address? It would be convenient.
- ➔ I just don't really e-mail.
- ➔ I just don't use e-mail.

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Question
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Are you able to attend parent teacher conferences as scheduled on the school calendar? If not, what obstacles are keeping you from attending? If not, what obstacles are keeping you from attending?

- ➔ work at school but can visit other times
- ➔ I have my own conferences going.
- ➔ Work conflicts with times available.
The lines at the middle school are terrible. Also, the doors are locked and you cannot get in the building until the exact time the conferences start. I know the teachers do not want to start early, but this does seem very unfriendly.
- ➔ Had other commitments or schedule conflicted with other student conferences.
- ➔ Need to be late in the evening

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Question
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How can parent teacher conferences be improved?

- ➔ I feel that our parent teacher conferences are good. I've never had any problems speaking to my children's teachers.
- ➔ They need to be a little later to fit in all parents willing to come. I had 7 parents that wanted the last 3 time slots this year. As teachers, scheduling becomes problematic.
- ➔ One day conferences longer hours. 2-7
- ➔ no comment
- ➔ I don't like that when I do have a chance to attend I have to hunt the teacher down, i.e. driving bus, coach. etc
- ➔ Schedule at times when working adults can attend.

- ➔ --- Assign times in high school
Extend the evening schedule to make more convenient for working adults. The current schedule
- ➔ you have to either take off work, or go through the conferences so quickly that you don't have time to see each teacher.
- ➔ Maybe middle school should look at scheduling times for parents to visit with the teachers.
- ➔ Make sure that ALL the teachers are accessible or make them on days that the coaches don't have to leave for games so that we can have face to face time with all the teachers
- ➔ NO IMPROVING NEEDED
- ➔ NONE
- ➔ stay later because we don't get off work in time to make it to the meetings.
- ➔ More time with the teacher; 15 minutes isn't nearly long enough.
- ➔ Have them later - after working hours
- ➔ Have all of the teachers present and available for conferencing. On occasion I have been unable to meet with one or more of my child's teachers due to their not being available
- ➔ N/A Very organized and the feedback and information regarding our child was truly appreciated
- ➔ If they could somehow be a little more organized. I have nearly stopped going to the middle school because you have to wait in line to get to see the teacher you want to talk with.
- ➔ If I was not at the school everyday and was not very acquainted with the "special" teachers I would want them to be a part of parent teacher conferences
- ➔ More informative and less hurried
Having different days for each school- ie Monday for Primary, Tuesday for Intermediate, Wed. for Middle and so on. This will get harder once all my kids are in Intermediate and there's only one of me.

Survey
Question
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Have you ever attended a meeting at your child's school? If not, what obstacles are keeping you from participating?

- ➔ just the parent teacher conference...

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Question
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Did you attend "Open House" at your child's school this year? If not, what prevented your attendance?

- ➔ I knew my child would not participate and would cling to me so I did not want to stress him/her out.
- ➔ my own open house
- ➔ Working
- ➔ child was sick

Survey
Question
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What type materials would you like to find in your child's school's "Parent Center"?

- ➔ Parenting Books
- ➔ no comment

- I would love to have an opportunity to know what my child is currently studying in the core subjects.
- ➔ Such as what is going on in Math, Reading, and Writing. If we had a calendar showing what our children are currently studying we could help them at home
- ➔ ___Schedules for specials each week___ School calendar___ Bell schedule
- Where is the parent center located? I know there is one but where is it? Some suggestions would
- ➔ be resources for helping low socio economic status patrons with food, clothing, etc. Plus parenting information and advice on nutrition.
- ➔ I do not know what a parent center is.
- I would like to see more info about colleges and it would be nice to have some info about the clubs
- ➔ and organizations that are available at the school there are a lot of clubs and things that not all the students know about and it would be nice to have something to give some info and to look over
- ➔ CAN FIND WHAT I NEED
- ➔ How to get kids to read more
- ➔ the correct procedures for giving lunch money, information on objectives, students, teachers...

Survey
Question
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Is the school calendar user/parent friendly? How can the school calendar be improved to be more helpful to you?

Not as many sporting/school events on dates school is out. Spring break, Christmas etc.

- It is easy to read however hearing from many teachers and parents I would like to see Dr. Barrett
- ➔ take more into consideration what the parents and teachers want. This is Gentry's calendar not Dr. Barrett's. I loved having a week at Thanksgiving this year.
- ➔ let us know when early releases are

Survey
Question
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Please check each statement that applies to you:

I need information on how to help my child with his/her homework.

I need assistance in choosing books to read to my Primary School child in the evenings.

Sometimes I feel overwhelmed by the school's expectations of my role as a parent.

I need help in understanding the school's Tier I, Tier II, and Tier III Intervention programs.

I need help in understanding and addressing my child's disability.

None of these apply to me but I would like.....

- My daughter doesn't have homework every single night but when she has homework and tests it seems that it is "over-kill". She had 4 tests in one week and these were core classes. She also had the PSAT test to take that week. She would come home and She would come home and begin
- ➔ studying at 5:30 and study until 10:00, 11:00, 11:30, just depending on which tests she was studying to. She is not a procrastinator and keeps up with class work and tests. I feel their should be better communication with the teachers. They do not have to schedule their tests all on the same day.
 - ➔ no comment
 - ➔ none of these apply
- to see each teacher have a website with information about upcoming tests, important lessons, homework assignments etc. on it. We had to do this at Life Way Christian school, and I got spoiled with it.
- ➔ no comment
 - ➔ My child needs extra help with math at school - how can I get the teacher to understand he needs more help (besides asking several times)?
- What int the "intervention programs?" Do we send lunch money to the office or the teacher, or can my child hand it to the lunch person? What do we do if it continues to come back home in the back pack for two or three days? Are we doing something wrong
- ➔ I'm a teacher I better know what is going on and how to help my child.

Survey
Question
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**With which of the following would you be willing to help?
(volunteer)**

None of these, but I would

- ➔ I work at the school during school hours, it is hard to get away.
- ➔ I tried to mark more than one. I already help with several of these. I initially chose fundraising since I work in the district and tried to choose another option of being a guest reader, but this particular question only allows for one response, when more could have been selected.
- ➔ Why am I only limited to one? I would help with several of the offerings.
- ➔ I am always willing to volunteer anywhere they school needs help.
- ➔ Have done many of the above but not since children entered high school
- ➔ I have assisted in the past with PTO, Booster club and typing the classroom newsletter.
- ➔ help in sports
- ➔ Help with something that isn't during work hours
- ➔ be willing do assist in preps outside of school

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Question
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What else would you like for us to know?

- ➔ School supply list. I spent \$100 getting ONLY the supplies on the list for 2 children. Then I find out that some of the things were not needed. I am sure that my child does not use sharpies or dry-erase markers.

- Gentry School District is a wonderful school to belong to. There are always ways to improve and we are no different than any other school. We do need more parents involved at the middle and high school levels. It seems when students get to this age that parents become detached and not as involved.
- ➡ Congratulations on being released from Fiscal Distress! Good work! :)
 - ➡ no comment
 - ➡ Why are classes disrupted more than one day a week? Could the school day be limited to only one day of the week for pictures, flu shots, bmi screenings, scoliosis screening, ect.
 - ➡ I want the students to have to walk during the time they are in trouble during recess and not to stand by the fence. They need to get exercise.
 - ➡ This is a test of whether the program was "debugged".
 - ➡ I am very pleased with the academic focus at the intermediate school. The quality of education greatly increased from the primary school's quality.
 - ➡ Other ways to get involved at school
- I think we have a great school. We really need to improve GIS. I feel the health of our children and staff are at risk. I know lots of students and teachers whos health suffer because of the mold issues. Children can't learn if they are sick, and teachers can't give 100% if they are sick. I think this should be our #1 concern at the moment.
- ➡ I don't want my children to be buried in homework, but I think they would do better with some practice at night.
 - ➡ I think that edline is a good tool but feel that all the teachers need to keep it updated on regular basis for it to really help parents know if their child is struggling in an area
 - ➡ Sometimes the paperwork is overwhelming.
 - ➡ Just to continue to make improvements to make Gentry the best it can be and to have good communication throughout the district.
- Being that the there has been an increased in the numbers of different ethnicity/cultures of children attending all Gentry schools, I would like to see an event celebrating all the different cultures once a year- this may allow all the children to see the different cultures and learn to appreciate where everyone comes from.
- ➡ I am good