

Parent Engagement Night

Centauri Middle and High School, North Conejos School District

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Historically, North Conejos School District in La Jara, Colorado has had strong family involvement surrounding sports but low family engagement with other activities. When middle school students shared that they felt their parents weren't understanding their needs and that even though they're older, they still want to talk with their parents about things going on in their lives, the district jumped on the opportunity.

The goal of Parent Engagement Night was to increase communication between students and parents by providing an opportunity to share ideas with one another and gain skills to understand one another better. Two middle school students were integral in the planning of the Parent Engagement Night, providing the school counselor with suggestions of topics to cover. As soon as the idea was well organized, school counselors from the middle school and high school advertised Parent Engagement Night weeks before the event date, and held the event in April.



In preparation for the event, the students created a survey that they sent to all students and asked their peers to list what they would hope to see come from the Parent Engagement Night. The form included topics they wished they could talk with their parents about, topics they felt misunderstood on, things they needed more help on, and if they would come to the event. The middle school counselor made a similar survey for parents. The agenda for the night was based on the survey results, which indicated that the most desired topic from students and parents was communication. Parent Engagement Night provided families with valuable tools, strategies, and insights to better understand their children's developmental needs and how to effectively support them at home.

The practice has not yet been evaluated. In the future, staff plan to utilize parent and student feedback to continuously improve the event. The biggest challenge was attendance and the team is working on ways to increase that. They have created a nine-month calendar which outlines the dates for future Parent Engagement Nights, as well as future topics to discuss. The calendar is subject to change, as they want to hear directly from families about what they would like.

Recommendations for others include asking students and parents for feedback, and learning what holds them back from attending these events.