High Impact Strategies for Engaging Our Diverse Families: 2019 FACE Seminar

Seminar Description

This Seminar is designed for school staff and administrators who want to foster strong engagement practices in their classrooms and schools. Participants will obtain new knowledge, ideas and tools they can use to create meaningful partnership with diverse families to help their students succeed. They will also have opportunities to examine how their past experiences and beliefs might affect their interactions with families and reflect on the essential core beliefs for effective family engagement.

Participants will be able to examine their own practices and apply what they learn to address particular challenges, weaving in strategies to ensure their activities with families are high impact. There will be short assignment in between sessions, inviting participants to assess their current practices in the classroom and school and exploring ways to revamp their current practices for higher impact.

Participants will receive a free copy of Powerful Partnerships: A Teacher’s Guide to Engaging Families for Student Success (Mapp et al., 2017). Following the textbook, Session 1 looks into the characteristics and conditions for effective home-school partnerships; Session 2 focuses on the core beliefs, asset-based and equity mindsets required; Session #3 dives into strategies to start off on the right foot with families; Session 4 looks into how to maintain strong family ties throughout the year and create a family engagement plan for the year ahead.

The Seminar is limited to 40 participants. Schools are encouraged to form teams of 4 or more. For more information contact Dr. Rosa Briceno, Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Specialist, Department of Teaching and Learning, at rosa.briceno@apsva.us, ext. 2128
2019 FACE Seminar—Key Questions and Learning Objectives

Session 1: Characteristics and conditions for effective home-school partnerships

- **Key questions:**
  - What does family engagement mean?
  - Why does it matter?
  - What do effective family-school partnership look like?
  - How do we get there?

- **Learning Objectives:**
  - Develop a deeper understanding of the meaning of family-school engagement
  - Get acquainted with the Dual Capacity Framework for Family-School Partnerships
  - Explore the 5 conditions needed to build effective partnerships
  - Apply these conditions to design a high impact family activity

- **Assignment:**
  - Read Chapter 2 in your book.
  - Assess your school practice using the *Fortress to Partnership* Rubric and discuss with your school team members.

Session 2: Core beliefs, strength-based thinking and equity mindset

- **Key Questions:**
  - How do your past experiences impact your ability to build vibrant partnerships with families?
  - What are the core beliefs for family engagement?
  - How can you bring an equity lens to your family engagement practice?

- **Learning Objectives:**
  - Examine how your own experiences in schools impact your current work with families
  - Examine your assumptions about family engagement using an equity lens.
  - Utilize the equity literacy framework to family engagement
  - Connect your experiences and assumptions to the four essential core beliefs of family engagement to inform future practices

- **Assignment**
  - Read Chapters 1 & 3 in your book.
  - Think about a particular family in your school that you would like to engage.
  - Write a 1-2 page reflection on how what you have learned in the seminar so far could help you better engage with that family.
    - What will it look like?
    - Which of the Four Core Beliefs for family engagement are most reflected in your strategy?
Session 3: Strategies to start off on the right foot with families

- Key Questions:
  - What has research shown that high-performing low-income schools do to create trusting and respectful relationships?
  - What strategies can you employ to get off to a great start with your families?

- Learning Objectives:
  - Explore the research-based "Joining Process" for creating a school where parents feel they belong
  - Deepen your understanding of foundational strategies you can use
  - Learn how your peers from other APS schools are implementing/revamping family activities for high impact

- Assignment
  - Read Chapter 5 in your book.
  - Using the APS Checklist: Is Your School Using High Impact Strategies to Engage Families? complete sections 1, 7 and another section of your choosing and discuss your responses with your school team members.

Session 4: Strategies to maintain strong family ties throughout the school year

- Key Questions:
  - How do you maintain strong family ties during the school year?
  - How do you infuse your family activities with the guiding partnership mindset and essential core beliefs for family engagement?
  - How might you go about planning your yearlong approach to family engagement for higher impact?

- Learning Objectives:
  - Discuss approaches and ideas to add to your own practice for engaging families in more impactful ways throughout the school year.
  - Analyze the Academic Parent Teachers Teams model of family-teacher collaboration using the 5 process conditions as your lens.
  - Begin to create a tangible plan for engaging families to help guide you through the year(s) ahead.