NASA/NSTA Web Seminar:
Successful Strategies for Involving Parents in Education

Wednesday, December 12, 2007
Family Involvement: What’s available? How to overcome obstacles?
Describe “Family” in Family Involvement

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A domestic group of people, or a number of domestic groups linked through descent from a common ancestor, marriage or adoption.

Wikipedia

Does this mean the community that encircles a child is not “family?”
Use clip art to mark the column in which you have found obstacles in regards to Family Involvement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Obstacles</th>
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<td>Time Constraints</td>
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Ways to overcome obstacles

• Lunch and Learns
• Use community centers versus schools
• Provide parent only workshops
• Contact Community support for resources
  – Grant writing
• Create a community environment within the school
• Use resources available from NSTA, NASA or other free agencies
Time Constraints

• Utilize community or school liaisons to help teachers maintain contact with parents
• Provide time during the school day for teachers to meet with parents
• Provide stipends or compensatory time off for teachers to meet with parents after school
• Freeing up teachers from routine duties in order to meet with students' family members
Involving Parents in education
Lunch and Learns

• Send out flyers one month in advance
• Identify topics that the parents need/want to know
  – Student Learning Styles
  – Developing Good Study Habits
  – Science Fair Preparations
  – Preparing for the ACT
Can we think of four additional topics parents may find helpful?

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Location/Safety

• Utilize community Resources versus the school
• Try to make family involvement programs/meetings during daylight hours
• Work with the district to provide safe transportation to and from the school
Let’s take a moment for Two Questions before we move into Resources available for Family Involvement
NASA Resources

Please Raise your hand if you have used NASA family involvement resources at your school
Mark if you have or have not **used** the following resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lunar Challenge</td>
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<td>21\textsuperscript{st} Century Explorer</td>
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<td>GEMS</td>
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<td>SEMAA</td>
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<td>NASA Portal</td>
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Resources

Let's look at what NASA has developed to enrich and encourage Family Involvement....
• Initiative to promote and support the incorporation of NASA content and programs into science, technology and mathematics curricula in classroom grades 4-9 across the United States.

• Targeting underserved populations in diverse geographic locations.

• Brings together educators, administrators, students and families in NASA's education programs.
Family Night Events

- Create a theme
- Prepare early
- Have school wide participation
- Have a staff PD session on the topic
- Provide food or snacks
- Ask for community support
- Create take home items
Lunar Challenge

- Lunar Challenge is an award-winning family involvement program, featuring inquiry-based learning and community partnerships.
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Let's take a moment for
Two Questions
• NASA’s Vision for Space Exploration depends on our students, the next generation of space explorers.
• The 21st Century Explorer project is designed to engage students in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and NASA concepts.
• To learn more about space exploration, choose a question to investigate.
GEMS

• Multiple Family, Parent/Caregiver and Kid oriented resources
• Some resources available in Spanish
• Many Math Resources
• Non-family resources can be adapted for use.
SEMAA
Science, Engineering, Mathematics and Aerospace Academy

activities

Build a Bubble-Powered Rocket - Build your own rocket using paper and fizzes tablets! Watch it lift off. How high does your rocket go?

Build a NASA Bottle Rocket - For this activity, family members will construct a simple water rocket from 2-liter soft drink bottles and other materials.

NASA Fit Explorer Challenge - NASA Fit Explorer project is a scientific and physical approach to human health and fitness on Earth and in space. Families will learn about the vision for space exploration and the physical fitness requirements of living and working in space.
SEMAAA Goals

• **Inspire** a more diverse student population to pursue careers in STEM-related fields.

• **Engage** students, parents/adult family members and teachers by incorporating emerging technologies.

• **Educate** students utilizing rigorous STEM curricula, designed and implemented as only NASA can.
Provide parents/families with strategies, materials and resources to support their children’s educational needs.

Include parents/families as a partner with NASA and the NASA SEMAA Sites in the planning, design and implementation of the NASA SEMAA Program.

Gain feedback in developing programs that most effectively support their Children’s education.
Welcome to the Family Cafe

This is an online resource for the adult caregivers of children who are currently participating in, or are interested in participating in the NASA SEMAA program.

Philosophy

"We believe that children, parents/families, and teachers are partners in the educational process, and must be respected and appreciated for their individual needs and roles."

Goals

- Provide parents/families with strategies, materials and resources to support their children's educational needs.
Raise your hand if there is a SEMAA Center near you.

http://www.semaa.net/Locations/
SEMAAA locations

- Promotes sustained family involvement at each of the NASA SEMAA sites around the Country.
- Provides parents/adult family members with relevant parenting and STEM education information.
- Researches and presents information to parents/adult family members on other NASA and non-NASA, STEM related programs available for their child’s participation in an effort to maximize student exposure and interest in STEM.
Resources

• *Family Involvement in Children's Education* - October 1997

• SEMMA
  – [http://semaa.net](http://semaa.net)

• NES
  – [http://explorerschools.nasa.gov](http://explorerschools.nasa.gov)

• NASA
  – [www.nasa.gov](http://www.nasa.gov)

• 21st Century Explorer

• GEMS
Thanks to our presenter, Keely Keyser, and to the NASA Explorer Schools
http://www.elluminate.com
Welcome to The NSTA Learning Center

Get the Help, When You Need It

NSTA developed the Learning Center as a professional development website to help address your classroom needs and busy schedule. Using this site, you can gain access to more than 1,200 different resources and opportunities, such as:

- Over 1,000 NSTA Journal articles (230 of them available FREE of charge)—many containing high-quality lesson plans.
- More than 35 FREE Science Objects (one- to two-hour interactive simulation-based learning experiences).
- More than 125 e-chapters from selected books and series (40 chapters FREE of charge).
- FREE weekly live Web Seminars where you can interact with experts from NASA, NOAA, FDA, NSF, and the NSDL Community.
- More than 20 SciGuides (A resource to help teachers integrate the internet into the classroom).

PLUS: NSTA has also developed a suite of practical tools called My Library, My Notepad, and My Transcript. Use these tools to organize, personalize, and document your professional growth within the Learning Center.

Learn More.

http://learningcenter.nsta.org
National Science Teachers Association
Gerry Wheeler, Executive Director
Frank Owens, Associate Executive Director
Conferences and Programs
Al Byers, Assistant Executive Director e-Learning

NSTA Web Seminars
Flavio Mendez, Director
Danielle Troiano, Project Coordinator
Jeff Layman, Technical Coordinator

NSTA WEB SEMINARS
LIVE INTERACTIVE LEARNING @ YOUR DESKTOP