

NEXT STEPS

Changes

- Recruit parents at all school functions.
- Appoint parent leaders for each grade level.
- Develop student leaders within the program.
- Advocate to implement this same structure in our 2 high schools.

Maintenance

- Stay engaged and committed through the challenges.
- Advocate to implement this same structure in our 2 high schools.



I would love to thank my youngest son Idris for being brave and courageous enough to invite me into his 6th grade classroom. I would love to thank our older children for never being mean to me when I would come uninvited. Thank you to my husband who encouraged me as I cried when I realized that I was not welcome to participate in middle school classrooms as I was in K-5.



The Parent Participation Program (3P)



THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY/Ohio Statewide
Family Engagement Center

Charde'
Columbus, OH

INTRODUCTION/NEED ADDRESSED

I am a mother to six children and I have always been involved or connected to something going on inside of the school building. My last child has entered middle school and is approaching the end of his 6th grade year. He still wants me to be involved in his classroom activities but that is not normal in our middle school. Parents volunteering in classrooms stops after the 5th grade. This begins the disconnect that in some cases never reconnects. The kids think it is embarrassing to have their parent sit in class with them. The parents move on to the next thing that is demanding their attention. The teachers only call us to assist with discipline. I am going to change that through "The Parent Participation Program" (3P). 3P is going to bridge the gap between parents, students, and staff by keeping us together beyond the primary years. Through 3P, parents can sign up to volunteer in sixth through eighth grade classrooms.

GOALS and OBJECTIVES

My goal is to create a space for middle school parents to participate inside the classrooms. Parents will be available to assist with daily task and assignments. 3P will launch in the 2026- 2027 calendar school year. By the end of the winter semester parents will be on the schedule and in rotation volunteering in classrooms. 3P will change the idea that middle school parents are only valuable to assist with student discipline. We will provide the opportunity for parents to be more involved in their child's educational development while supporting the students and staff. 3P will keep parents, students and staff connected past the primary school years.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN DESCRIPTION

Getting the Word Out

- Speak to fifth grade parents at their parent meeting on 5/14
- Distribute flyers in pick-up and drop off lines.
- Hang flyers at entrances and exits.
- Tell the students about 3P at their community meeting.

Working Together

- Ask staff how 3P can best support their classroom goals.
- Create safety and guideline expectations with Administration.
- Collaborate with staff to create a place where parents can secure their belongings and recharge while volunteering.

Signing Up

- Direct parents to fill out the school volunteer form online.
- Provide a parent sign-up form to the front office.
- Provide a teacher request form to the front office.
- Parents are able to sign up through the email on the flyer as well.

Seeing it Through

- Create schedule and bring volunteers in the building.
- Send out maintenance emails weekly for feedback.

Incentive

- Have a celebration for students with parents who volunteered.
- Give parents and staff gratitude certificates.

Evaluation

- Email survey to staff and volunteers.
- Provide paper survey for students.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Parents and Teachers create genuine relationships.
- Students overcome the stigma that it is embarrassing for their parents to help in their classrooms.
- Students feel supported beyond necessary discipline.
- Regular in-person communication between parents and teachers.
- Community is created between students' staff and parents.
- 3P becomes the blueprint and expectation moving forward.

EXPECTED CHALLENGES

- Low sign-up interest from parents.
- Students are distracted by volunteers.
- Teachers feel uncomfortable with parents being in the classrooms.
- Parents not staying committed after signing up.