

An Educational Partnership between Schools and Communities

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Abstract

An educational philosophy for most schools denote the usual statement of providing the foundation for quality education to all students is visibly posted in many of the school offices for all to see. This foundation is based on three major pillars, schools, teachers, and communities. The pillars are not separated; they cannot exist by themselves. They are linked with a constant flow of energy and information. They are moving in the same direction and providing the quality education for their students. Parents and communities expect the hallmark of education be maintained and mission oriented.

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The schools are the first pillar and are visible to the public. People see children on the playgrounds or on the blacktops lining up to go to their classrooms. They also see the libraries, cafeterias, offices, and classrooms; yet, they are not seeing an important function that the schools have to offer. The schools provide a haven where students feel safe in an environment that is conducive to learning and working. The schools have fire drills and lockdown drills, where students can also learn by participating. The schools are also considered magnet schools where diversity is valued. Students from different countries have the opportunity to learn about America and prepare for an education that will later benefit themselves and communities.

The teachers are the second pillar. They must demonstrate the ability and desire to

educate their students at a high level. It is more than being in front of the class and providing instruction to their students, the teachers are in the classrooms teaching and encouraging their students to do their best. The teachers also focus character building to their students; the teachers set the example for their students. They are constantly being evaluated for their

4

professionalism by principals or supervisors. When the students leave the school grounds, the teachers' work is never done. There is grading of papers, obtaining supplies and materials for the next day's lesson, and standing in line for making copies on the copying machine. To maintain quality in schools, the teachers are still in classes. They are enrolling in professional development classes, independent studies, leadership programs, instructional technology classes, and business management classes.

The community is the third pillar and a vital partner in the educational system. Parents receive notices and school newsletters in English and other languages. Parents volunteer to work in the classrooms, as crossing guards, or an additional parent on field trips. Parents are encouraged to take classes such as ESL and GED in adult education program. Parents are becoming the eyes and ears for the schools on weekends and holidays. The police come to the schools talk to the students during Crime Prevention Week and Say No to Drugs Week. The fire department also come to the schools and display their fire truck and equipment for the students. The retired music teachers also come to the schools and provide musical entertainment for the students.

The educational partnership between schools and communities is a worthy cause. It reflects our values on education. We should continue to support quality education. The education of our students is important for they are our future parents, citizens, and leaders in

our communities.