

Guidebook on involving parents in online school life



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Introduction

Welcome to our practical guidebook on involving parents in online school life. Research shows that parent engagement in schools is closely linked to better student behavior, higher academic achievement, and enhanced social skills. Parent engagement also makes it more likely that children and adolescents will avoid unhealthy behaviors, such as tobacco, alcohol, and other drug use.

With the rise of online learning, parents are increasingly important in supporting their child's education.

This guidebook will explore the benefits of parental involvement in online learning, it will offer practical tips and strategies that are useful for parents to stay informed, communicate with teachers and support their child's learning at home. It offers tips for teachers to help them include parents in their children's school life.

Introduction

By working together, parents and educators can create a collaborative and supportive environment that fosters student success in the digital age.

Parental involvement in online learning can be beneficial for both students and educators and can help to create a more positive and supportive learning environment for all. There are numerous benefits to parental involvement in online learning.

Parents who are actively involved in their child's education can help to improve their child's academic performance. By supporting their child's learning at home and working collaboratively with teachers, parents can help to reinforce learning, identify areas of difficulty, and provide assistance when needed.

Parental involvement in online learning can promote student engagement and motivation.

Introduction

When parents take an interest in their child's education, it sends a message to the student that education is important and valued.

Parental involvement in online learning can promote student well-being. By working collaboratively with teachers, parents can help to identify and address any issues that may be affecting their child's academic or emotional well-being. This helps ensure that the student receives the support and resources they need to thrive in school.

Nevertheless, parental involvement in online learning can help to strengthen the relationship between parents, students, and educators. When parents and teachers work together to support student learning, it can create a sense of community and shared responsibility for student success.

Introduction

This can foster a positive and supportive learning environment that benefits everyone involved.



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Guide for Parents

Enabling Your Child's Learning in Online School

With the growing trend of online schooling, parents play a crucial role in supporting their children's learning. By being actively involved in their children's online school life, parents can help ensure that their children have a successful learning experience. This guide provides some guidelines on how parents can be involved in enabling their children's learning in an online school. It contains suggestions and useful tools for teachers about how parents can be participants in school life, even online, and indicates the steps required to organize a suitable online learning environment for their children at home.



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Enabling Your Child's Learning in Online School

Establish a Routine

The first step in enabling your child's learning in an online school is to establish a daily routine that includes scheduled times for learning and other activities. Work with your child to create a schedule that takes into account their learning requirements as well as their other commitments. This routine will help your child to stay focused and engaged in their learning

Create a Dedicated Learning Space

Creating a dedicated learning space for your child is essential for ensuring that they have a suitable environment for learning. Choose a quiet and well-lit area in your home that is free from distractions.



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Enabling Your Child's Learning in Online School

Create a Dedicated Learning Space

Equip this space with a comfortable chair and desk, a reliable internet connection, and any other necessary tools such as a laptop or tablet.

Communicate with Your Child's Teacher

Communication with your child's teacher is crucial for staying informed about your child's progress in their learning. Take the initiative to establish regular communication channels with your child's teacher to stay updated on their learning progress, receive feedback, and address any concerns or issues that may arise.



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Enabling Your Child's Learning in Online School

Support Your Child's Learning

As a parent, you can provide valuable support to your child's learning by participating in their school activities, reviewing their assignments and homework, and providing help when needed. Set aside time to go through your child's work and discuss any challenges or questions they may have.

Encourage Social Interaction

Online school environments can be isolating, so it's essential to encourage your child to engage in social interaction with their peers. Encourage your child to participate in virtual activities and events organized by their school, such as virtual clubs or social events, to help them develop social connections..



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Guide for Teachers

Suggestions and useful tools

Create a Welcome Video

Creating a welcome video that introduces yourself and provides an overview of the course and expectations can be an excellent way to involve parents in their children's learning. The video can be shared with parents to give them a better understanding of what their children will be learning and how they can support them.

Provide Access to Course Content

Giving parents access to course content can help them stay informed about what their children are learning and how they can support their learning at home. Teachers can provide access to course materials, including readings, assignments, and class notes, through a learning management system or shared drive.



Suggestions and useful tools

Organize Virtual Parent-Teacher Conferences

Organize virtual parent-teacher conferences to provide parents with an opportunity to discuss their child's progress, ask questions, and offer feedback. Provide clear guidance on how to join the conference and prepare for the discussion. Teachers can use video conferencing tools such as Zoom or Google Meet to schedule and host virtual parent-teacher conferences.

Offer Parent Workshops

Offering workshops or training sessions for parents on topics such as online safety, technology, or study skills can be an excellent way to involve parents in their children's learning. Teachers can host these workshops virtually and provide resources and tools to support parents in their role as participants in their children's online school life.



Suggestions and useful tools

Utilize Online Tools for Communication

Online tools for communication can be an effective way to involve parents in their children's learning. Teachers can use communication tools such as email, messaging apps, or social media to keep parents informed about their children's progress, upcoming assignments, and other important information.

They can provide guidance on how to use these channels effectively and set expectations for response times and frequency.

Encourage parent involvement

Offer opportunities for parents to get involved in their child's online learning, such as virtual volunteering, online parent-teacher associations, and parent-led discussion groups. Encourage parents to share their feedback and ideas for how to improve the online learning experience.



Suggestions and useful tools

Offer guidance on how to support learning at home

Provide guidance on how parents can support their child's learning at home, including tips on establishing routines, creating a distraction-free environment, and offering emotional support. Encourage parents to ask questions and seek guidance as needed.

Foster a sense of community

Offer opportunities for parents to get involved in their child's online learning, such as virtual volunteering, online parent-teacher associations, and parent-led discussion groups. Encourage parents to share their feedback and ideas for how to improve the online learning experience.



Suggestions and useful tools

Offer One-on-One Support

Offer one-on-one support to parents who may be struggling to support their child's learning at home. This can be done through email, video conferencing, or phone calls.

- **Email Support:** providing parents with resources and tips on how to support their child's learning at home. Teachers can also answer any questions or concerns that parents may have regarding their child's academic progress or school work.
- **Video Conferencing:** Teachers can schedule one-on-one video conferencing sessions with parents to discuss their child's progress and provide guidance on how to support their learning at home. During these sessions, teachers can also demonstrate different online teaching tools and resources that parents can use to help their child with their school work.
- **Phone Calls:** Teachers can also offer one-on-one support to parents through phone calls. This can be an effective way to discuss any concerns or questions that parents may have regarding their child's academic progress, as well as offer guidance on how to support their child's learning at home.

Suggestions and useful tools

Incorporate Project-Based Learning

Project-based learning involves students working on a project that is based on real-world scenarios. This can be a great way to engage students and involve parents in their child's learning by having them help with the project.





Examples of how to put these suggestions into practice

Establish communication channels:

- Send an email to parents at the beginning of the school year explaining the different communication channels available, such as email, messaging apps, or online platforms. Include step-by-step instructions on how to use each channel and expectations for response times.
- Provide a contact list of teachers and other school staff, including email addresses and phone numbers, so that parents know who to contact in case of questions or concerns.

Provide updates on academic progress:

- Send weekly or monthly emails to parents summarizing their child's progress, including grades, assignments, and attendance. Use clear and concise language to help parents understand their child's progress and offer suggestions on how to support their learning.
- Provide regular updates on school events, such as upcoming tests, quizzes, and projects, so that parents can help their child prepare.



Examples of how to put these suggestions into practice

Encourage parent involvement:

- Host virtual parent-teacher association meetings or online parent-led discussion groups to give parents a platform to share their ideas and provide feedback on the online learning experience.
- Provide opportunities for virtual volunteering, such as leading online study groups, participating in virtual classroom presentations, or sharing expertise on a particular topic.

Facilitate parent-teacher conferences:

- Schedule virtual parent-teacher conferences on a regular basis, such as every quarter or semester. Provide clear guidance on how to join the conference and how to prepare for the discussion.
- Use video conferencing tools to make the conference more interactive and engaging. Share the child's academic progress and discuss strategies to support their learning.



Examples of how to put these suggestions into practice

Offer guidance on how to support learning at home:

- Provide resources and tips for parents on how to create a supportive learning environment at home, including how to establish routines, create a distraction-free workspace, and offer emotional support.
- Send regular emails with suggestions for at-home learning activities that reinforce the lessons learned in class.

Foster a sense of community:

- Organize virtual social events, such as virtual game nights or virtual coffee chats, to give parents a chance to connect with each other and with the school community.
- Create an online forum or Facebook group for parents to share their experiences and provide support to one another.



These are just a few examples of how to put the framework into practice. The key is to be proactive in communicating with parents and to provide a variety of opportunities for them to get involved and engaged in their child's online learning experience.



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References



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