

**Examples of 8th Grade Family Engagement Activities for the Transition to High School**

**Sharing Information at Events**

 *8th Grade Family Gathering with Panel of Family Members Whose Students Transitioned to HS Last Year*

One idea for a high school information event for 8th grade families is to include a panel of family members whose students attended 8th grade there and have already made the transition to high school. These family members share their experience and are available to answer questions from current 8th grade family members.

*8th Grade Family Gathering prior to registration for 9th grade courses in spring*

Hold an event for 8th grade families the evening before 9th grade course registration to help inform families about the course selection process and address their questions. Counselors from the high schools should bee in attendance to make short presentations and answer questions.

*8th Grade Graduation including specific information and advice for families about how to support student success in high school*

For middle schools and K8 schools that are able to host graduation events, this is probably the best opportunity to reach the most family members at once. Brief presentations focused on how to encourage success in high school could be included in the program, and helpful information could be available for family members to pick up.

**Information-Sharing Activities that Do Not Require an Event**

*Sharing information with 8th Grade Families on School APP or Website*

Search for Aki Kurose Middle School on the APP Store as an example how a school is using the APP to communicate important information with families.

*Interactive activities for students to complete with a family member at home, focused on the high school transition*

A set of four short activity sheets focused on the transition to high school to guide discussions between 8th grade students and a family member have already been developed for use by schools (downloadable from our website: ADD WEBSITE HERE). Word versions are also available so schools can tailor them individually.

**Examples of 9th Grade Family Engagement Activities for the Transition to High School**

**Sharing Information at Events**

*Partnering with feeder middle school in an 8th Grade Family Gathering prior to registration for 9th grade courses in spring –* Middle schools can hold events for 8th grade families the evening before 9th grade course registration to help inform families about the course selection process and address their questions. (Including student performances or display of student work/projects can make these events more celebratory and draw higher attendance.) Counselors from the high schools should be in attendance to make short presentations and answer questions.

*Spring welcome dinner for incoming 9th grade families --* Many high schools have a tradition of welcoming incoming 9th grade families with a special dinner (barbecue or other theme) in May or June. There are several ways that schools could see continuous improvement in these events: making special personal invitations to families who typically are under-represented in attendance, expanding translation services, including specific short presentations about how families can support student success, sharing written information (in multiple languages) about how families can support their students or giving specific important facts families need to know.

*Fall welcome event for incoming 9th grade families --* Families who miss the spring event could benefit from another opportunity to experience the communication opportunities described above. Varying the times of events can ensure that more families have the opportunity to attend. Helping families learn how to navigate the parent portal could be an important component of this event.

*Fall meeting for families after first quarter progress report/report cards* – Providing opportunities for families to understand how 9th  grade students can improve their achievement after the first report card can be important for improving rates of student success. Combining this event with another school event could help increase attendance.

**Information-Sharing Activities that Do Not Require an Event**

*Sharing information with Rising 9th Grade Families on School APP or Website --*

Search for Garfield High School on the APP Store as an example how a school is using the APP to communicate important information with families. Many high schools have lots of helpful information for families that is easy to find on the website. Short videos (possibly even made by high school students themselves) posted on a website or APP can be a helpful avenue to share ways that families can support student success.

*Recorded telephone messages through School Messenger about the importance of attendance, the dates of progress report distribution, etc. could be very useful.*