

# WCCUSD PARENT UNIVERSITY

## 2015-16

### What is School Smarts?

School Smarts Parent Academy is a seven-session, two hour per week course designed to foster parent engagement and create active parent leaders. Parents will learn about a variety of topics (see below) and also participate in art activities that build inclusivity amongst parents and foster community.

#### ■ Parent involvement

- Your role as your child's first teacher
- How to create a home environment that helps your child succeed
- Components of being "ready to learn"

#### ■ Preparing for a lifetime of learning

- How your child learns
- How the arts support learning
- Basics of college readiness

#### ■ Understanding our education system

- Structure of the California public school system
- What your child will learn in school
- How your child's progress will be measured

#### ■ Understanding our school

- How our school is governed and decisions are made
- Roles and responsibilities of the school board, superintendent, administration, teachers, staff and parents
- Parent involvement plans; school committees

#### ■ Becoming an effective communicator

- How to build strong communication skills
- Why home-school communication is important

#### ■ Standing up for a quality education-Taking action and celebrating leadership

- Definition of a quality, equitable education
- How to affect change at our school and beyond
- Creating personal and group action plans
- Celebration

Materials are available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Arabic, Tagalog and Vietnamese.

### School Smarts Academy in Action

**Planning:** Using a team (SSC or other group that includes parents and teachers) coordinate the roll out of Parent University.

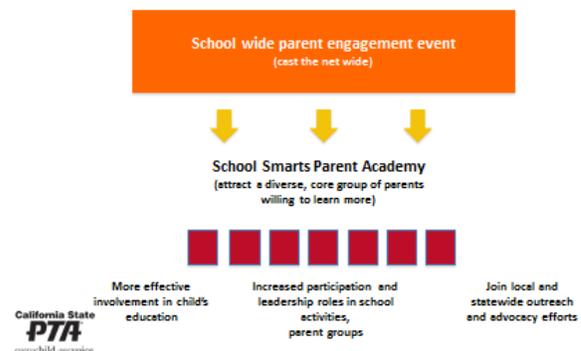
**Training Format:** 7 sessions, 2 hours each

**Class Size:** approximately 25-30 parents (must have room with adult size chairs and desks and available room for child care needs).

**Facilitated by** trained adult educators, school staff or teachers from the school.

**Sessions are interactive** and include individual and group activities, art activities, homework assignments and group discussion

#### The School Smarts Model



### School Smarts Impact

- Participation in the School Smarts academy helped parents improve understanding of the K-12 school system and what they can do at home to support their children. School Smarts created a sense of community for parents from diverse backgrounds.
- Parents appreciated meeting school leaders and their school principal as part of the program, felt more secure in their relationships with school personnel, and gained confidence in asking questions.

## What parents learn in each session?

Workshop		Homework
1	<p><b>Parent Involvement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why parent involvement is all-important</li> <li>• Different ways for parents to get involved</li> <li>• How to help your child get ready to learn, at home and in school</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ask your child’s teacher about his or her homework policy, and find out where you can get information on the assignments that are given.</li> <li>2. Look around your home and identify things you can change to help support your child’s learning.</li> <li>3. Talk to your child about what you learned in this session – share your art activity with them, and have them make their own “hand” at home!</li> </ol>
2	<p><b>Preparing for a Lifetime of Learning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The different ways that children learn</li> <li>• How the arts support learning</li> <li>• Educational possibilities after high school and the basics of college planning</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Create a traditional mask with your child.</li> <li>2. Ask your child the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What would you like to do when you grow up?</li> <li>• What do you know about that career?</li> <li>• What do you think you need to study in order to accomplish that?</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Watch the YouTube video with your children: “Did You Know” (2014 version)</li> </ol>
3	<p><b>Understanding Our Education System</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How California’s public school system is organized</li> <li>• What your child will learn in school</li> <li>• How your child’s progress will be measured</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do the origami art project with your child – and talk about some of the math ideas you are using.</li> <li>• Try some standards-based activities with your child. (For ideas in math, visit <a href="http://khanacademy.org/commoncore">khanacademy.org/commoncore</a>)</li> </ul>
4	<p><b>Understanding Our Local School System</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How decisions are made at your school</li> <li>• The roles of the school board, principal, teachers and staff</li> <li>• Volunteer and leadership opportunities for parents</li> <li>• Special academic programs and after-school activities</li> </ul>	<p>Make a School Involvement Collage: Create a collage of how you want to be involved with your school. Involve your child or children. Instructions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Discuss involvement ideas with your children: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do you think it’s important for parents to be involved in our school?</li> <li>• In what way do you think I should be involved?</li> <li>• Do you think I’m ready to be a leader?</li> <li>• What do you think being a leader means?</li> <li>• How can YOU become a leader?</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
5	<p><b>Becoming an Effective Communicator</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why home-school communication is so important</li> <li>• How to build strong communication skills</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Show you hat to your child and make one together – talk about the different roles you play in your family, at school, etc.</li> <li>2. Try one or two new strategies for communicating with your child.</li> </ol>
6 & 7	<p><b>Standing Up for Quality Education – Taking Action and Celebrating Leadership</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is means to be a leader and an education advocate</li> <li>• How to take positive action to help your child and your school community</li> <li>• How to set goals and create a post-academy action plan</li> <li>• Flex your leadership muscles and celebrate all you have accomplished!</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Refine your action plan.</li> <li>2. Practice your presentation (if appropriate, preview it to your child).</li> <li>3. Come to the next session ready to celebrate!</li> </ol>