

WCCUSD PARENT UNIVERSITY 2016-2017

LCAP GOAL 3: Increase parent and community engagement, involvement, and satisfaction.

What is Parent University?

Parent University 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.

Parent University in Action

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

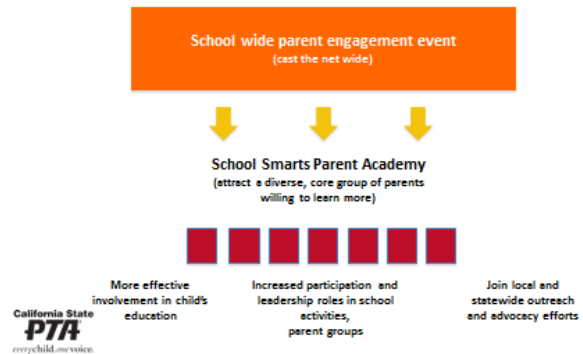
Training Format: 7 sessions, 2 hours each

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, and School Community Outreach Worker.

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