



Summit Storm

Easy Grade Pro: Frequent and Early Assessment Combined with Increased Parent Communication

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School Improvement Goal

Many would agree that communication between the school and home is crucial to a child's success. It is through these exchanges of information that most parents find out about programs, nighttime activities, school events and functions and their child's progress concerning grades and development. The question is, if communication is so important, then why do most school use the most expensive, labor intensive and untimely manner to contact student families? If a typical school year is thirty-six weeks long and the first progress report goes out at week nine, then the student could have been potentially failing 25% of the course material before the family is even made aware of their child's poor academic standing. Depending on the material being taught, some would say that it would be too late for the child to remediate their grade. There a faster, less expensive mode for reaching out to parents. It is possible for a parent to receive a daily, detailed aggregate breakdown of their child's progress in school. That constant and frequent exchange will improve the parent's view of their child's school. Frequent and early student assessment combined with recurrent electronic communication between the school and the parents results in higher grades and greater achievement for the student, combined with happier parents who feel more connected with the teachers, school district and educational community. These goals can be attained after the interjection of the Easy Grade Pro software.

The Easy Grade Pro (EGP) software serves students, parents, teachers and administrators. EGP is intended to increase communication between parents and the school, primarily through daily or weekly e-mail. Through the sending of frequent e-report cards there will be an increase in parental satisfaction with communication levels.

Summit Action Plan

New efforts

- ‡ Provide training for staff on Easy Grade Pro software
- ‡ Create timeline for e-reports to be sent
- ‡ Form a teacher/administrator team to monitor progress
- ‡ Construct a parent volunteer force to help teachers input demographic data
- ‡ Establish a parent work force to create a school wide data base
- ‡ Have teachers keep a running log of grade averages and class averages to monitor growth

School Characteristics

Summit High School is a relatively new school built in 2001. It was designed to be the technological school of Central Oregon. Summit draws primarily from a very high socio-economic group. Most families are very affluent, college educated, and very involved in the education of their children. There is a general expectation that their children will attend a four-year university. The student population is overwhelmingly computer savvy when it comes to technology. Most students are more technologically advanced than their teachers. Of the 1,295 students that make up our population, 666 are males and 629 are females, in which 92% are Caucasian, 7% are Hispanic, and 1% are Asian. There seems to be a greater diversity in terms of economic standing. Our school border does draw from a small region of primarily low-income housing known as Deschutes River Woods. Though Summit does contain a diverse economic structure, a recent survey shows that greater than 93% of our parent force have access to a home or work computer.

Budget Demands

Budget Demands: The budgetary concerns should be minimal concerning the implementation of Easy Grade Pro. The software is already installed on every teacher's laptop and our parent volunteers will handle the input of data. In fact, implementation of the software should save the school money through reduced copies, stationary, mailing and work hours put towards sending out report cards. Since EGP requires teachers to update their grades on a regular timeline, the district might consider providing subs for some departments to allow extra grading time. This can be done by using subs already in the building who have no need for a prep period.

Survey Information

Survey: Chart I

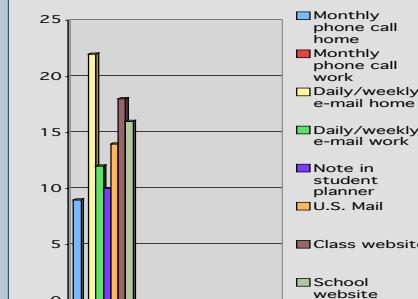
For the purposes of this SIP plan I created a survey of parents. The first section of the survey asked parents to rank the methods of communication they would prefer. The answers ranged from U.S. mail, school website, and monthly phone call home to a daily/weekly E-mail at home. Twenty two percent of the parents questioned responded that they would strongly prefer a daily/weekly E-mail home. The next highest percent answered in favor of going to a class website with eighteen percent, this was followed closely by the school website option which came in at sixteen percent. All told, electronic notification to the family came in preferred by approximately fifty six percent of the respondents. Oddly enough the lowest ranking notification method was the phone call home, which is what our site administrators recommend after the land mail report card. The phone call ranking was nine percent.

When asked what are the things parents wanted teachers to communicate to them, the answers were really not surprising. Most parents were concerned about students failing grades, falling behind, ways to improve performance, upcoming assignments, deadlines, and depth of curriculum. The answer most commonly given was a weekly e-mail home.

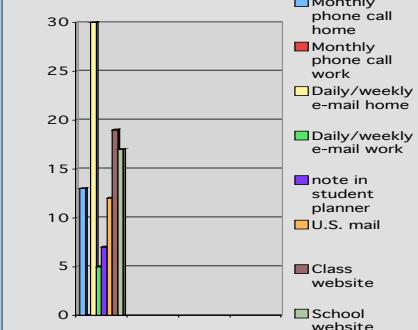
Survey: Chart II

The last section of the survey dealt with parent satisfaction over the level of communication between the school, teacher and the parent. In response to the first question, pertaining to the level of satisfaction concerning the frequency of contact from their child's teacher relating to classroom grades and attendance, seventy two percent of the parents said they agreed or strongly agreed that they were pleased with the level of contact. The numbers were higher when asked about contact from the front office concerning events, conferences and performances. Eighty seven percent responded that they agree or strongly agree that they were pleased with the level of contact between the front office and the home.

Pre Easy Grade Pro Survey ranking method of communication you prefer



Post Easy Grade Pro survey ranking method of communication you prefer



Contact Information and Acknowledgements

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Outcome Projections

Projections through year end

- ‡ Results in happier parents who feel more connected with the teachers, school district and educational community.
- ‡ Higher grades and greater achievement for the students
- ‡ The district report card will be more detailed and more frequent
- ‡ Teachers will generate thousands of parent contacts over the course of a semester
- ‡ Summit will realize a direct cost savings on paper and ink.
- ‡ Increase in parental satisfaction with communication levels
- ‡ Improvement in student GPA as a result of frequent and early assessment

Implementation Timeline

Date Due

Date Due	Activity
August 2009	Selection of Easy Grade Pro (EGP) committee
August 2009	Year long plan written by administration and committee
September 2009	Introduction of staff to software, voluntary teacher test group (approx. 10 teachers)
September 2009	In-service of volunteer teachers towards application of EGP
November 2009	Testimonials by volunteer group, aim at having half of staff on board by January (semester's end.)
February 2009	Begin in-service for remainder of staff with goal of 100% compliance by years end

References

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