



COVID Education Innovation in Florida

Parent Virtual Nights (Collier County)

Wanting parents to understand the importance of being involved in their child's education, a 30-year veteran first grade Collier County teacher saw an opportunity to elevate and celebrate families as their child's first teachers by establishing monthly First Grade Parents/Families Virtual Nights. By providing a monthly platform for families to connect with the school, parents felt included as vital part of their child's educational journey, and in return, parental involvement increased dramatically in ensuring the success of the child. Including a Spanish translator opened the sessions to even more families.

Monthly meeting times were scheduled and planning and coordination between teachers and parents ensured timely topics and wide participation. Students could take home laptops the night of the meetings, which were recorded for parents unable to attend or for those wanting to review policies or information again at their leisure.

Many timely, relevant topics were addressed in each session, including: reading, writing, and oral language skills; math, problem solving and use of technology; standard-based progress reports, standards and learning goals, and pupil progression; Leader In Me Habits; and activities that can be used during spring break. Parental feedback was positive on all these topics.

This program was about "becoming a family and stronger learning community together" said teacher Mindy Myers. "Watching the families on the computer together communicating with the teachers has been amazing. We have more participation for both parents and students knowing they are coming online to meet with us at home."

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The Consortium elevates the impact of Florida's local education foundations through advocacy and providing a collegial community for ongoing learning, shared resources and support. These nonprofit organizations are aligned with nearly every school district in our state and collectively they raise more than \$80 million annually to innovate learning, power potential and celebrate success.

We believe strong collaboration is essential to ensure school success. Our effort to capture, elevate and share education innovations discovered amid the disruption of the pandemic is offered in that spirit.

Our **Top 10 Takeaways: COVID Education Innovation** report can be accessed at educationinnovationspotlight.com