



A Community of Learners

Informational Memo-Parent Education Plan

TO: School Board
Superintendent Kocanda

FROM: Kate Hughes, Communications & Community Relations Coordinator

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Background & Overview

The Winnetka Public Schools has a longstanding commitment to Parent Education. Programs such as The Winnetka Parent Institute (WPI), which offers a series of District and school-specific discussions and events, provide education and information about the District's philosophy and practices to the Winnetka community.

In 2016-2017, the District will have an increased strategic approach to planning and communicating Parent Education topics in order to:

- Make a tangible connection between the District's Shared Vision and key topics
- Enhance consistency in communication throughout the District
- Provide an opportunity for the "Community of Learners" in Winnetka to engage together and learn about a variety of topics
- Support parent/teacher communication efforts (i.e. streamlining information provided by grade during conferences)
- Proactively address common questions that arise within the community
- Incorporate feedback from the 2016 Survey to determine Parent Education topics. Parents referenced Math; STEAM; Social and Emotional Wellness; Progressive Education; and the New Trier Experience as key areas of interest.
- Create a schedule that shares relevant information at pertinent times throughout the year by utilizing a variety of communication platforms

Alignment with the District 36 Shared Vision

The District 36 Parent Education program aligns with the “all learners” element of the District’s Shared Vision.

- The reference to “all learners” in our Shared Vision is not limited to students, but our entire community.
- Through a robust offering of Parent Education sessions and concerted communication efforts, the District is able to support parents to enrich their own knowledge on various topics, as well as learn best practices to **support, challenge, and empower** their child at home.
- The WPI events planned for 2016-2017 are designed to help educate and inform parents on an array of topics, all of which ultimately connect back to the goals outlined in our Shared Vision.

Next Steps

The District will disseminate parent education information via communication platforms including events (i.e. panel discussions, presentations, and book talks); the District website; District and school newsletters and publications; video; and social media.

Principals will work together to coordinate communication efforts on important topics in school e-newsletters. The District will share a preliminary calendar of fall WPI events in school newsletters and on the website by early September. These fall events will address areas of interest such as the Math Program Evaluation and STEAM. The District will also partner with The Alliance for Early Childhood and other local organizations to share information on events that may be relevant to community members and future parents.