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EDUC 6540  
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Week 5, Chapter 5 - Class Discussion

***There are many benefits that come from parental involvement in a child's education. What specifically could you do as a school leader to encourage parent involvement at school and at home with their children? Please list at least 3 things you would do?***

As mentioned in the reading and elsewhere, parental involvement is **crucial** for school and student success. Parents can reinforce and strengthen the lessons students are learning in their classrooms, and if parents and schools are on the same page, I've seen some great things happen. We often have **Student Showcase** events at our school, where we celebrate student achievement, and parents love to get involved, see what their students are accomplishing, as well as allow parental involvement. As administrator, I would continue to do such events, and it seems I'm in good company, as several of you mentioned these being successful and engaging. Such meetings between the faculty and parents in low-affective settings are quite productive, and I've also personally had some great success with these as a teacher.

I also believe that having a **school wide online presence** is important as well. At my current school, this is haphazard and incomplete, though I often hear positive things from parents about my own class website, such as: "Oh, thank goodness for your website! I appreciate staying inform," or "I wish all of the teachers did the same type of thing; thank you!" I have helped several other teachers create their own website, and I am dabbling in utilizing a LMS (Learning Management Software), such as Google Classroom or Canvas next year. I do think it would be useful to have a standard that we all utilize in the school, which would help keep the parents in the loop more easily. That would be another thing I'd implement as an admin.

Finally, I'd suggest that teachers create assignments or opportunities to involve parents with their students or classrooms. I currently offer extra credit or optional assignments to parents and students to encourage their involvement, but at the same time, not to penalize those who don't have time to do that (which I think is important to remember as well). This has been a fun way to get to know more parents, especially those who are interested in being more involved in their child's education and the school. I look forward to reading more about your ideas, and I love that we have so many good ideas posted already!

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