

Parent and School Relations Subcommittee

Meeting notes 12/01/09

Attended by Mark Adams, Laura Erickson, Jeff Hill

This meeting was held to brainstorm ideas regarding the following question:

Do parents need (or want) any particular information or training to help their students be successful at U-High?

Interestingly enough, all of our discussions centered on technology...

1. Family Access – Parents ability to utilize as a resource...how to read, what to look for, how often to access, the difference between an * and 0.
2. Blackboard v Parents – Blackboard as a resource, top of mind awareness i.e. “Did you check Blackboard?” v. “Well, the teachers are all gone for the day, I guess you’ll have to wait till tomorrow.” Is there a potential to make Blackboard an element of the parent/netbook orientation?
3. Netbook initiative issues
 - a. How can we prepare parents to celebrate the use of technology to develop knowledge and product?
 - b. Technology gap – there is a potential for the technology gap to be exacerbated rather than solved by the access provided with netbooks – How do we predict and solve the potential problems? Home access to internet – the suggestion of wireless routers ... provide a list of free wireless access points.
 - c. Determine access to the internet – possibly a survey at registration (or before)
 - d. Familiarity with programs and software – is there a role for the learning center here early in the school year?
 - e. Digital citizenship
 - f. Philosophically, we have to get parents to buy in to the idea that the value of the netbook is much more than its replacement cost