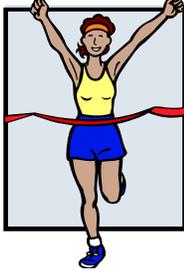


## Are you ready for a Parent Champion!



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## Parent Engagement & S3

### A little history



- S3 = Safe & Supportive Schools
- 22 Michigan High Schools receive funding
- In Year 1 each school received a 2 hour *Parent Engagement Professional Development* for Staff (evaluated)
- Recommendations for moving forward on parent engagement:
  - Focus Groups (staff, parents, students)
  - Collect survey data from parent events
  - Utilize the services of Parent Action for Healthy Kids



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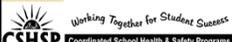
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**Problems are familiar!  
Solutions are not!**



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**Family**



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**The Perfect Parent**



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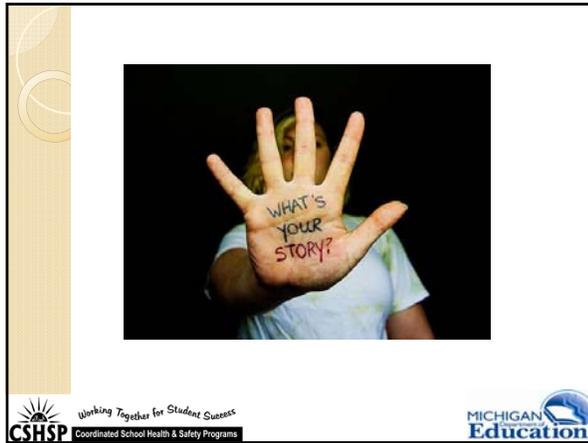
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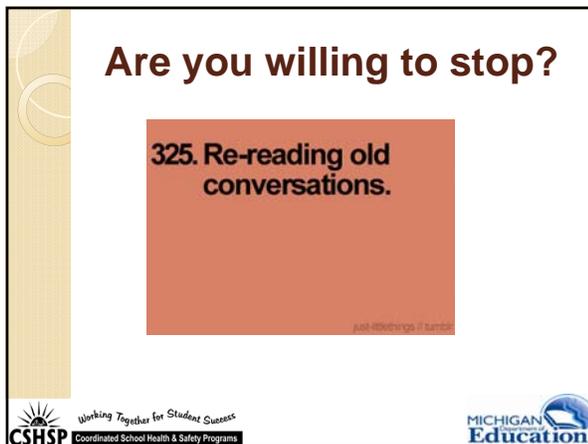
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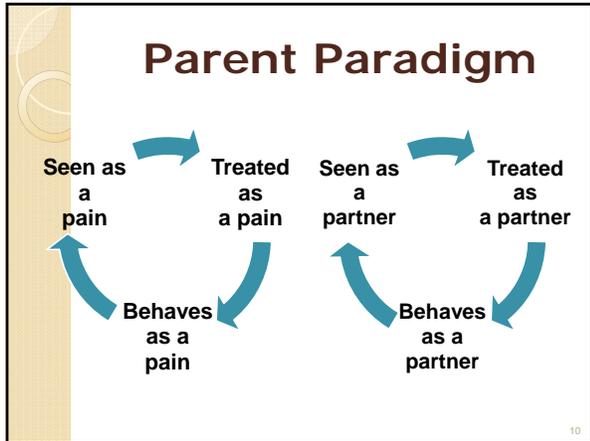
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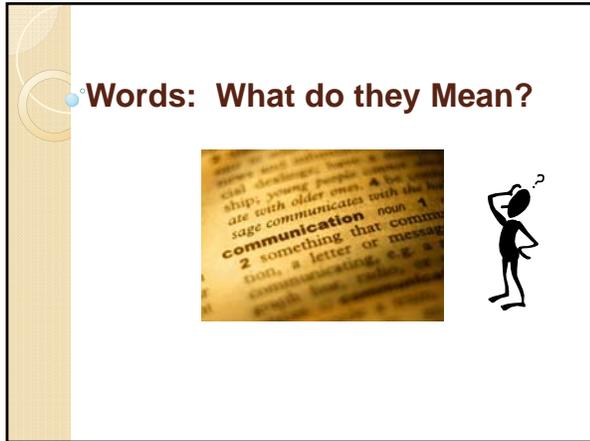
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### Choose Words Carefully

Need to → Want to

Have to → Choose to

Should → Would like to

Source: *Medicine of the Cherokee* by Garrett, J.T. & Garrett, M.

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### Understanding Parent Emotions

**Judged**

**Inadequate**

**Shame**

**Frustration**

**Loser**

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Shame is an emotion in which the self is perceived as defective, unacceptable, or fundamentally damaged.

**Feelings of Shame:**

- Disgraceful
- Humiliating
- Reprehensible
- Worthless
- Pitiful
- Bad
- Appalling

**HELLO**  
my shame is

**Fear of Disconnection!**

A feeling of not being right, acceptable, not accomplishing other peoples scores and values

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### Our babies don't keep!

*Cooking and cleaning can wait 'till tomorrow for babies grow up we've learned to our sorrow. So quiet down cobwebs, dust go to sleep, I'm rocking my baby and babies don't keep.*

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**The System**  
*How do we help parents understand and work within the system?*



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**When parents hit a brick wall within the system sometimes they become:**

**Disengaged**

**Quarrelsome**

**Frustrated**



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**How do you choose to use your energy?**



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**Choice**



Take what you need:

- Pegs
- Scissors
- Markers
- Staplers
- Glue
- Tape
- Rubber Bands
- Hole Punch
- Paper Clips
- Index Cards
- Index Tabs
- Index Rings
- Index Covers
- Index Labels
- Index Strips

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**Trash your mindset!**

- Illusion
- Desire
- Judgment
- Fear
- Control



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**Inform**

**Engage**

**Both are important, however,  
Understand the difference!**

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**Inform**

**Communicate Effectively & Regularly**

**Newsletters**  
**Email**  
**Phone Calls & Texting**  
**Verbal & Written Communication**  
**Website & Social Media**




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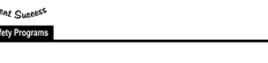
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**Engage**

**Inform**  
**Gather Data**  
**Invite**  
**Conduct Meaningful Events**  
**Ask for Support**  
**Follow Up**




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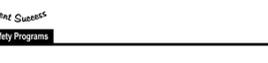
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Are you ready for a parent champion?



**Essential Elements for**  
**Building a Foundation for**  
**Parent Engagement**




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**1. Commitment to Engaging Parents**

#1595



**COMMITMENT  
DISTINGUISHES A FRAGILE  
RELATIONSHIP FROM A  
STRONG ONE**

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**Public Hearing**  
How do we notify Parents about something new in the district?



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**How does Nike inform us of something new?**



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## 2. Transparent Relationship



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## The Path of Meaning



Event    Observation    Conclusions    Emotions    Actions

Source: *Better Than Duct Tape: Dialogue Tools for Getting Results and Getting Along.* By Patterson, Grenny, McMillan, and Switzler

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## What People Need is a Good Listening to!

*Listening is not just etiquette; it's a way of loving, honoring and respecting. It's a way of bonding and connecting. It's a way of sharing ourselves and our humanity.*

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**Ways to listen with compassion, understanding and intention:**

- Be present and give the speaker your full attention.
- Show interest, be generous, encourage the speaker.
- Listen with you heart as well as your ears.
- Make it safe for the speaker to share his or her thoughts and feelings.
- Listen to every word without interrupting or wishing to speak yourself.
- When the speaker has finished, acknowledge what you heard without judging or correcting.

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**3. Shared Responsibility**



**homework eating cat knows**  
**... dog will get blamed**

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**No Blame Game!**



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## Symptoms of Conflict



- **Judging**  
... someone for who they are
- **Characterizing**  
... them for what they do
- **Attributing**  
... motives to explain why they do it
- **Dictating**  
... solutions to perceived problems

Source: D.B. Moore 2004

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## 4. Encourage Individuality or Focus on Fixing?



CREATIVITY is....

- SOMETHING that some of PERSONALITY & OTHERS
- ALLOWING DARING to SHINE
- SOMETHING DIFFERENT! that cannot be TAUGHT
- TWO DROPS of IDEAS CANNOT BE KEPT SECRETLY, SOMETHING NEW
- TRUSTING YOURSELF to produce SOMETHING DIFFERENT, EXCITING & UNPREDICTABLE
- DOING the Same THING OVER & OVER AGAIN
- ADAPTING to ALL ASPECTS of the SITUATION
- THE ABILITY TO BE ABLE to EXPRESS Yourself FREELY IN WAYS YOU WANT TO

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AND I WILL TRY TO FIX YOU.

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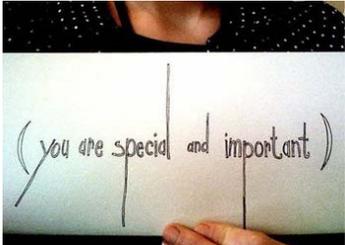
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### 5. Genuine Appreciation for Parents



(you are special and important)

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## Appreciation

- Do we build rapport or create alienation?
- Can you believe that parents are inherently good, and treat them as such?
- Believing in the inherent goodness of people, guides our behavior toward people.
- Recognize great behavior and encourage more of it.
- Positive emotion of gratitude compared to the negative emotion of expectation (judging & shaming)



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Ask for what you want and be prepared to get it.  
Maya Angelou

© We're All Random Here

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The courage to be imperfect!  
The compassion to be kind to yourself first and then to others  
We can't practice compassion to others if we can't treat ourselves kindly!

Source: Daring Greatly, Brené Brown

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### The Act of Asking!

- Risk making yourself vulnerable – ask without shame
- Give & Receive Fearlessly
- Asking connects you with parents
- Parents want to help
- Change the question from:
  - How do we **make** parents get involved to
  - How do we **let** parents get involved



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**Parent Engagement & S3 Next Year!**

think. respect. Safe and Inclusive Schools

- Share & Learn 101 (Approximately \$50 per person)
- Share & Learn 201 (Approximately \$50 per person)
- The Art of Creating a Dynamic Parent Workshop (Approximately \$25 per person)
- On Call Assistance from Parent Action for Healthy Kids
- *Talk Early & Talk Often*
  - A workshop for parents to help them develop the skill to talk to their adolescents about abstinence and sexuality.

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**Helpers!**

"I hope you're proud of yourself for the times you've said 'yes,' when all it meant was extra work for you and was seemingly helpful only to someone else.

If you could only sense how important you are to the lives of those you meet; how important you can be to the people you may never even dream of. There is something of yourself that you leave at every meeting with another person."

Fred Rogers  
*Mr. Rogers*

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**Barb Flis, Founder**  
**Parent Action for Healthy Kids**  
[www.parentactionforhealthykids.org](http://www.parentactionforhealthykids.org)

Follow Parent Action for Healthy Kids on:  

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