

Mississippi Association of Partners in Education presents

50 Ways to Help People Like Your School - or Business

1. A "Welcome to our School" sign at every entrance encourages visitors.
2. Begin each day by shaking hands with everyone who enters the building. This includes students, too.
3. Smile. It costs nothing and creates more good feelings than a sign or a slogan.
4. Keep the school website up to date and user friendly.
5. Principals, be visible.
6. Make sure the front office staff knows how important it is to greet visitors warmly.
7. Have an ambassador list that includes parents who are willing to be called by parents who have questions.
8. Create a Wall of Fame to honor outstanding parents, guardians, volunteers, teachers and students.
9. Join with others in the community to help a local charity or health organization.
10. When you have guests, have a continuous slideshow with photographs of students in action.
11. A yearly open house is one of the most effective activities to get people to your school.
12. Host back-to-school night and invite the surrounding community.
13. A Sunday afternoon would be a good time for a neighborhood ice cream social at your school.
14. Breakfast at school for different community groups promotes school support.
15. Show and tell what goes on in your school through tours for parents and groups.
16. Have family recreational nights in your school's gymnasium or playground.
17. Make keeping in shape a community effort by sponsoring athletic events.
18. Hold public forums at school on topics of interest to the entire community.
19. Host "Here's What's New" mini courses for parents at the start of each school year.
20. Voting Day is a great opportunity to showcase your school if it is a polling place.
21. Include community partners for awards programs.
22. Parent-teacher conferences are extremely important.
23. Phone calls personally inviting parents and others to school activities often improve turnout.
24. Have a movie night at the school for parents, students and teachers.
25. Invite senior citizens to enjoy lunch at school.
26. Get businessmen to become pen pals with students in your school. Start with school partners.
27. A monthly principal's coffee klatch with active parents, partners and community leaders.
28. Welcome newcomers to the community with a special packet of helpful information.
29. Establish a student information corps to serve as guides, hosts or hostesses to greet visitors.
30. Hold a Parents' Day at your school.
31. Grandparents' Day is another occasion where creativity can be used to encourage involvement.
32. Have a seminar for single parents.
33. Hold a summer activities workshop to help parents get their children through school vacation.
34. Send a school newsletter to neighborhood residents and businesses.
35. Have a 15-20 minute speech on your school ready at all times.
36. Set up a speakers' bureau for your school.
37. A glass-enclosed sign in the front of the school can advertise events or deliver short messages.
38. Give substitute teachers special treatment so they will leave with positive impressions of your school.
39. Stage school performances at shopping malls or at partners' places of business.
40. If you have space, invite community service clubs to hold meetings in your school.
41. Invite parents and partners to serve as judges for art shows, talent shows, science fairs, etc.
42. Ask parents and partners to give occupational guidance to students.
43. Have parents and partners teach mini courses on the topic that interests them most.
44. Send parents quarterly educational "places to go, things to do" calendars.
45. Make a list of community VIPs and partners and send them school information on a regular basis.
46. First impressions are often lasting, so make sure the grounds are always neat and attractively kept.
47. Invite parents to brown bag lunches with you and their children.
48. Display your students' work in prominent places such as malls, partner locations and other public facilities.
49. Develop a PowerPoint presentation for your school.
50. Make sure local legislators are on your school's mailing list. Hold a "Legislative Day" and invite them to your school.

Mississippi Association of Partners in Education – www.mapie.org

P.O. Box 2803 • Madison, MS 39130-2803

Phone: (601) 605-0577 • Fax: (601) 853-4408 • Email: PartnersinEd@aol.com