

Parent Workshop: Learning Style Theory
Battlefield Primary School
Thursday Nov 30, 2023
Meeting Minutes

Invitation, Welcome, and Check In:

Invitations were sent out via paper handouts and virtually posted on DOJO and the school Facebook page. Translated invitations were also sent to our ESOL families. Parents were greeted by BPS and BES PICS, and the BPS Academic Coordinator. Guests were asked to sign-in as they entered.

Objectives and Agenda

To cover the Title 1 Building Parent Capacity guidelines, BPS and BES Parent Involvement Coordinators held an in-person Parent Workshop on November 30th at 10:00 am at Battlefield Primary School. The topic of the workshop was Learning Style Theory: "Discovering Your Child's Learning Style" and was highly requested from the Fall Surveys of 2023. The virtual presentation was also posted in the PIC Newsletter and Online for any parents who were unable to attend.

Distribution and Presentation of Information

Amber Barnes researched, compiled, and created a presentation, and assembled a take home folder with hand outs and put together a group activity, and took home a bag with tools based on the 4 VARK Learning Style Categories for parents to use at home with their children. . Each parent was handed a workshop packet with information that they could look through as they waited for the presentation to begin and they were asked to fill out a Learning Styles Questionnaire for Adults while waiting. Parents could take this packet home to refer back to the information as needed. Amber Barnes began the workshop by welcoming the guests and introducing the PIC from BES Andra Herpst and the Academic Coach from BPS Michelle Rogers. Each person took turns presenting on the VARK Learning Style. They explained the 4 main learning styles, listed the identifying characteristics, gave supporting suggestions for each type as well as homework and study tips. Amber Barnes also presented on the nature of the Learning Style Theory, that there were many other learning styles and today's presentation focused on VARK however, the other methodologies were also touched on briefly. During the presentation, the guests were actively engaged and participated in the questionnaire, and group activity. At the end of the presentation question one parent asked why there were so many different learning styles? Amber Barnes answered by detailing more about the different theories and that they all have merit but at this time more evidence and research data is needed to determine exactly how the human brain works. Another parent asked about the student questionnaire and Amber Barnes clarified that all categories of the VARK Method are important to learning and that each student will have different strengths and that weaker areas of learning in students should not be avoided but actually focused on just as much because it helps to build neural pathways to those weaker areas of the brain which will strengthen that area leading to a more balanced brain and helping students engage in all learning they styles they may encounter in the future. Everyone was very engaged in the impromptu conversation after the meeting!

Evaluation, Results, and Feedback

After the presentation, guests were asked to complete the workshop evaluation and return before they left. The PICs then ended the workshop by thanking the parents for attending. The parent workshop received extremely positive feedback from the guests that attended. They loved the quizzes and the take home resources and stated they wanted more workshops in the future. One parent asked for translated copies of the presentation and handout and Amber Barnes sent home Spanish Translations for this parent the following week. Once parent asked more about Title 1 and other resources available for parents and Amber Barnes and Andra Herpst talked about all of the resources available to parents in the Resource Room including the "Parent Library" Another parent asked if audio books could be available to parents and Amber Barnes said she that, that was a great idea and she would take that question to her county coordinator Kristy Jablonski. Requests were made of parents who were only able to attend the Virtual Presentation to get a copy of the folder with the supplementary material. Amber Barnes sent home three packets of information and goody bags for those parents that requested.

Closing and Title 1 Handouts

Access to all Title 1 handouts were provided in the slide show for parents and they were informed that they could also get those handouts at any time by requesting them from the PIC Amber Barnes and Andra Herpst or by visiting the Resource Room at Battlefield Primary or Battlefield Elementary where those handouts are always available. Parents were also informed that all Title 1 Documents are available on the school website.