

## Western Carolina University

Name:

Tutor:

Date: February 18, 2015

### **Assignment #2**

Read Marzano's 'what works in Schools: Translating Research into Action'. List all the practices that he says "work in schools". Then explain one that will work in your school.

**Below is a list of Practices that Marzano says work in schools. These are considered as School-Level Factors**

- Identify and communicate the content considered essential for all students versus that considered supplemental or necessary only for those seeking postsecondary education.
- Ensure that the essential content can be addressed in the amount of time available for instruction.
- Sequence and organize the essential content in such a way that students have ample opportunity to learn.
- Ensure that teachers address the essential content.
- Protect the instructional time that is available.
- Implement an assessment system that provides timely feedback on specific knowledge and skills for specific students.
- Establish specific, challenging achievement goals for the school as a whole.
- Establish specific goals for individual students.
- Establish vehicles for communication between schools and parents and the community.
- Establish multiple ways for parents and community to be involved in the day- to-day running of the school.
- Establish governance vehicles that allow for the involvement of parents and community members.
- Establish rules and procedures for behavioural problems that might be caused by the school's physical characteristics or the school's routines.
- Establish clear schoolwide rules and procedures for general behavior.
- Establish and enforce appropriate consequences for violations of rules and procedures.
- Establish a programme that teaches self-discipline and responsibility to students.
- Establish a system that allows for the early detection of students who have high potential for violence and extreme behaviours.
- Establish norms of conduct and behavior that engender collegiality and professionalism.
- Establish governance structures that allow for teacher involvement in decisions and policies for the school.
- Engage teachers in meaningful staff development activities.

It is indeed interesting to make mention of the many factors that impacts greatly on the effective and efficient running of the school. I particularly like the factor that speaks to parent and community involvement. I strongly believe that the involvement of parents and the community in the life of any school can prove to be beneficial to an effective teaching and learning environment and to school improvement in general.

As a school administrator I am aware of the implications of positive parental and community involvement. Having positive Parental and community involvement creates a trusting, respectful and harmonious relationship between parents and teachers which in turn affect the student /teacher relationship as well. It also lends itself to a beautiful adult/ child relationship where students will demonstrate respect to adults apart from their own parents or classroom teacher.

This type of relationship gives parents the feeling of a sense of belonging. They feel a part of thus displaying genuine concerns and interest about the welfare of the school. Positive parental involvement will eradicate negative criticisms or the many visits parents make to complain which has proven unhealthy for the development of the school.

Communication is one effective feature which connects the school to its parents and the community. Marzano declares, that it is the schools responsibility to provide an atmosphere in which parents have the desire to communicate at all times. (p.48)

At my school we have developed vehicles of effective communication that has been working exceptionally well for us. These fruitful means of communication are telephone calls, circulars, permission slips, teacher conferencing, the schools messaging system (SMS), calendar of events and conducting home visits.

Home visits are usually carried out by the Guidance Counselors and sometimes by the Principal depending on the nature of the situation. These forms of communication have proven beneficial to the development of the students and the life of the school in general as parents/ guardians realize that school administrators really care about their situation.

Marzano postulated that nothing creates a sense of ownership than been involved in the day to day school activities. I can attest to this fact as at our school we have been involving our parents a great deal in our daily school operations. I saw the need to initiate a breakfast programme to assist the needy students who often come to school without a hot meal in the mornings and sometimes go through the day without lunch as well. I asked for financial assistance from the Member of Parliament (MP) and also asked for voluntary assistance from the parents who willingly gave of their service to the programme. We now have an active breakfast programme that feeds approximately 40 students on a daily basis. Pictures of these parents are posted in our recognition corner and incentives are given on special occasions such as graduations and on parent appreciation days.

We have been looking at different ways to offer quality service to our customers hence, the initiative of setting up a “Parent Place” in collaboration with the Ministry of Education. The parent place is an area specially selected and furnished to accommodate our parents; it can be used for small group social gathering, for counseling sessions and as a home work center. Our parents are encouraged to use this facility to their advantage and for the educational development of their children.

Our parents are involved in the Governance of the school. Parents are given the opportunity to sit on committees such as the School Improvement Planning (SIP) committee; a parent sits on the Board of Management which involves major planning for school improvement. Parents are also involved in various developmental projects such as gardening and beautification. They assist the classrooms teachers on a regular basis and they are also involved in recreational activities such as our annual sports and fair events.

I have observed that there is a sense of comfort as these activities allow parents to get to know members of the school staff thus developing a relationship that is based on love, respect and understanding which has promoted positive community involvement in the life of the school.

In addition, I must say that our school shares an excellent relationship with the parents and the community. The two major political parties host their meetings at the school on a monthly basis. The police youth club meets weekly, the dance group uses the premises for practice and the PTA holds its bi-monthly meeting on the compound. We also use the community playfield for our annual sporting events.

*Good report. Your grade is 4.*