

180
DADS

180

DAYS

woodland elementary

Family Engagement Best Practices in Action:



January 19, 2011

Welcome and Introductions

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Woodland Elementary School

The Extent of Fatherlessness

An estimated **23.6 million children (32.3 percent)** live absent their biological father.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. *Current Population Survey Reports*. "Household Relationship and Living Arrangements of Children Under 18 Years, by Age, Sex, Race, Hispanic Origin: 2004.

According to **72.2 %** of the U.S. population, fatherlessness is the most significant family or social problem facing America.

Source: National Center for Fathering, Fathering in America Poll, January, 1999.

Educational Achievement

Children who lived with only **one parent** had: lower grade point averages & college aspirations, poor attendance records & higher drop out rates.

Source: McLanahan, Sara and Gary Sandefur. *Growing up with a Single Parent: What Hurts, What Helps*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1994.

Fatherless children are **twice** as likely to drop out of school.

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. National Center for Health Statistics. Survey on Child Health. Washington, DC; GPO, 1993.

School children from **divorced families** are: absent more, more anxious, hostile, withdrawn & less popular with their peers.

•Source: One-Parent Families and Their Children: The School's Most Significant Minority. The Consortium for the Study of School Needs of Children from One-Parent Family

Rising Expectations for Fathers

The National Center for Fathering's Gallup Poll in 1992 found **96.8%** of those responding agreed that fathers should be more involved their children's education.

54.1% agreed that "fathers today spend less time with their children than their fathers did with them."

180 Days of Dads Program

How it began....

- Viewed a story on ABC News about the W.A.T.C.H Dogs program-provided protection for school following the Columbine Shootings
- Brought idea back to WES School Council and proposed to the Administration that the School Council create a custom “Dads” volunteer program to increase male parental involvement rather than for protection.
- This program would require no monetary start up costs, very little set up and was easy to do
- WES School Council decided that inviting DADS to come out and assist with the morning car rider/bus/lunchroom duty would be the best way for the DADS to support the school.
- Began planning the pilot program (Dads And Doors) in January to be launched during the CRCT in April. We created postcards to go home with children, advertised the program at ALL school functions and contacted the PTO & Room Mom’s to help us enlist Dads.



The Beginning of

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- Following the CRCT, the School Council reviewed the success of the pilot program of Dad's and Doors and decided that we wanted to implement this program year round in our school
- The WES Administration discussed the program with the Board of Education and the requirements were given to us to get started.
- We contacted the local Sherriff office to see if they would conduct the background checks for us and the cost involved. Our Sherriff's office waived any fees for conducting the background checks and provided us the forms. After further consideration, the Board of Education decided that all background checks would be turned into their office and then turned over to the Sherriff's office. Upon completion, the Sherriff's office would notify the Board of Education who would in turn notify the school counselor. The ensured protection of personal information.
- The WES School council developed the 3 year plan for the program to provide us with direction in where we wanted to take this program.

180 Dads 180 Days Three Year Plan

Woodland Elementary School beginning spring 2009

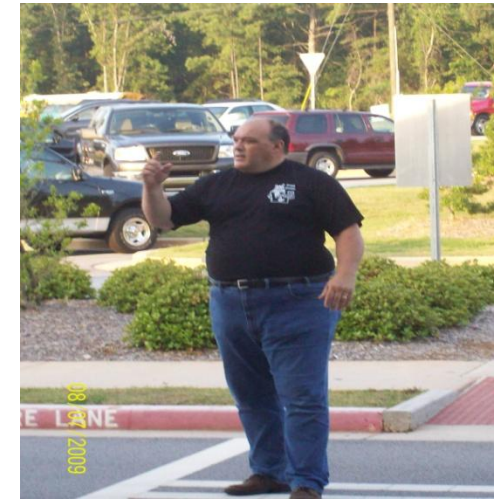
Spring 2009	2009-2010 Year 1	2010-2011 Year 2	2011-2012 Year 3
Data Analysis and development based on results and research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research ways to get male role models involved Develop initial trial activity -Dads / Doors 	Develop Three Year Plan / track data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research activity ideas for volunteers / mentors 		
Volunteer Goals: Initial <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share idea with School Council School Council adopts idea Initial planning with School Council and School Administrators 	Sign up / Recruit - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open House PTO Dad t-shirts Background checks Media exposure Invitation in all student packets Fall Festival Table 		Full Day Dad Volunteer 180 Days
Volunteer / Mentor Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> During CRCT Morning Car / Bus Duty Lunch Duty 	Full Day Dad volunteers two days a week <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Morning Car duty Lunch Duty Assist in Volunteer at Fall Festival 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue with successful activities from the years before
Initial Implementation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dads and Doors Program 	Implementation of 180 days / 180 Dads		
School Council Responsibilities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bulletin Board Classroom Contest Input / Three Year Plan Plan and Implement Welcome / Interest Night for "Dad" Volunteers 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan and Develop a 180 Days/ 180 Dads Advisory Board School Counselor will participate as school chair

•Full Implementation through School Counselor (Counseling Dept.) and 180 Days/ 180 Dads Chairman. WES Administrators assist in an advisory capacity.

How do you get your Dads started?

- Advertise, Advertise, Advertise
- Contact PTO, Room Moms, Staff Spouses
- Make a small display for the office & to be used at assemblies
- Create an application so you can get the Dad's contact and availability information
- Get the background check forms from your BOE and/or contact the local sheriff's office
- Have the Dad's sign up for a day and/or job
- Can create a t-shirt for the Dads to wear to help identify them when volunteering
 - We created T-shirts and sold them for \$8
- Be sure that they know that they have to abide by all school policies and procedures





• **MEN**tors



Community Involvement

- Contact your Partners in Education and invite them to participate
- Invite your parents to see if their employers would be interested in participating
- Allow them to come out and advertise their business by wearing their business T Shirts or hang up a sign advertising their business- We do not allow them to distribute any materials to our parents or students
- Go thru your local white pages and contact business in your community and introduce your program



Middle & High School Participation

- WES has been contacted by our local Middle/High Schools regarding this program. Since we have a Middle/High school located next to ours, we were able to share our ideas with them.
- We had to find ways to get Dads involved in those schools
 - Community Coaches
 - Car Duty
- We used the same start up plan and invited Dads to come out and assist with morning car duty during CRCT.
- The Dads that have “graduated” from our school to the Middle school now expect to volunteer in some capacity. This makes it easier for the Middle school to enlist them.

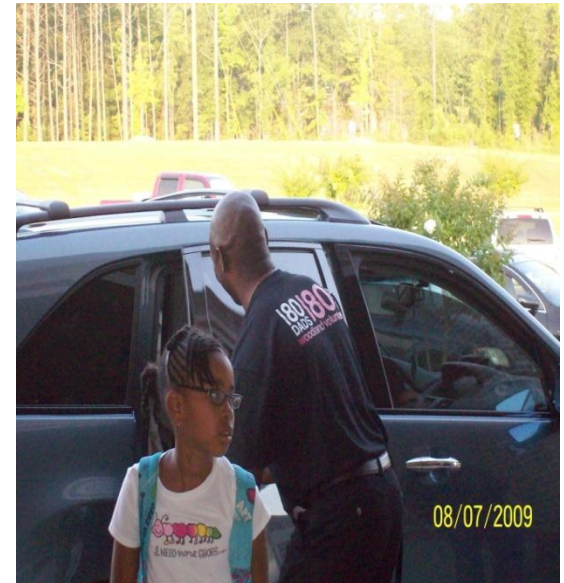
Challenges You May Face



- Getting the Dads to come inside the school to volunteer- due to work schedules
- Recertification process for yearly background checks
- Community Participation requires a lot of personal contact
- Getting up to date information on the status of a students whose father's volunteer in the program- if the family has moved out of the district and no longer attends the school
- Breaking down the preconceived notions that society has about Men working in our schools
- Finding “masculine” jobs for the Dads to perform

Other Ideas

- Use Dads to help struggling readers
- Form Teams of Dads to work Lunchroom duty
- Have competitions per grade level to enlist Dads
- Get Dads to cook the hamburgers/hot dogs on the grill for a Fall Festival
- Create a Work Day for Dads to come out and assist the teachers with classroom set up
- Hold informational meetings at least 1 time a year and invite new Dads
- Have a Bon Fire for the Dads and children to come out and socialize





Questions?