



WVFEC


Getting Everyone on the Same Page

Blackshere Elementary School

Summary


Blackshere aimed to create a comprehensive school focus to get teachers, families, and students on the same page about education and school activities.


Blackshere Elementary School

 Mannington, Marion County

 58.7% employment rate

 333 students

 65% Students on Free or Reduced Lunch

 **School Motto**
Purpose, Pride,
Perspective in the
Pursuit of Excellence

 <https://www.marionboe.com/o/blackshere>



CHALLENGES



Two notable challenges for Blackshere was teacher buy-in and family engagement. School staff mentioned how COVID adjusted mindsets for everyone. This included teachers who were slower to support initiatives and families not realizing the importance of education which resulted in low interaction with the school and engagement in school activities.



COVID

COVID presented a barrier for teachers to connect with both students and families.



Family Mindset Toward Education

Many families did not understand the importance of education for their children's futures.



Attendance

Both COVID and family mindsets have resulted in low student attendance.

SOLUTIONS



Blackshere focused on creating a welcoming environment to all stakeholders to ensure that teachers, families, and students felt safe, respected, and heard. Blackshere sought ways to ensure all stakeholders were on the same page about the importance of attending school and receiving a quality education to support future success.

Top Priorities Related to Family Engagement



Open door policy



Supporting grandparents



Attendance

ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS



Key Initiatives

To achieve their goals, Blackshere aimed to recognize students' efforts and achievements through incentives (such as the book vending machine) and involve staff, families, and the community in school initiatives (such as a family picnic). In addition focus was to implement programs and activities (such as PTO nights) so that schools, families, and students are on the same page about the importance of education and future student success.



Key Stakeholders Engaged

- School staff
- Students
- Families

Lessons Learned

Blackshere found that focusing on all mindsets was critical in their family engagement efforts. When teachers, families, and students didn't see the importance of the activity or education in general, there was a lack of involvement. By addressing these mindsets, teachers, families, and students were more involved and connected.

OUTCOMES



Quantitative Impact

1

The school saw a dramatic increase in student attendance and family involvement in a two-year period.

Qualitative Impact

2

Students seemed happier and more engaged in school activities, including enthusiasm for school content (e.g., reading).

Unexpected Outcomes

3

Give your colleagues additional context to your report by using a section header for some introductory message or background.

CONCLUSION



Overall, Blackshere was successful by getting all stakeholders on the same page to support students in their academic success. The school saw a marked increase in students' school attendance and both families' and teachers' involvement in school initiatives.

Book Vending Machine

The school installed a book vending machine to incentivize students to attend school and to exhibit positive behavior.



Activity Goal

Increase student literacy and attendance

Key Actions

- Engaged all teachers in utilizing the book vending machine
- Students could earn tokens through attendance and behaviors.
- Ensured access to different reading levels



Activity Outcomes

Increased student attendance

