

Special DVD Uses

Faculty/Staff Orientation

Consider your school staff and faculty as marketing people for your program. If they understand the program and believe in its goals, they will encourage others to attend. Ask your school principal to show both videos, perhaps at successive staff meetings, to help educate faculty on what ParentNet is and how it helps build a more supportive school community.

Connect to the ParentNet Website

From the DVD, you can connect to the ParentNet website if you have an active Internet connection. You may wish to do this when you train parent facilitators about using the ParentNet website to download materials from “ParentNet Central” that will help them in their job as facilitators and in marketing the program.

In-School Marketing/ Education

It is important for parent facilitators to understand their role in marketing the program to others in your school and in helping educate parents on why ParentNet is important. Use the DVD to present a consistent message about the program.

ParentNet Facilitator Training

The ParentNet DVD is used each year at your school’s ParentNet Facilitator Training. Please consult the Training Manual for specific ways of incorporating the DVD into your training design.

Be Creative!

Every school has unique events and activities where parents gather. Sit down with others on your ParentNet Committee and decide where and when you could show “What is ParentNet?” and “A Closer Look at a ParentNet Meeting.” Perhaps your school is connected to a cable television station that broadcasts to student homes. Be creative – do what it takes to show these to as many people as possible.



PARENTNET®

DVD Guide

Guidelines for Using the DVD for ParentNet Facilitator Training and Marketing/Education

(Please keep this brochure with your ParentNet DVD)

The ParentNet DVD is designed to educate parents, staff, and faculty in your school community about the ParentNet program and how it benefits families. The DVD presents the program from numerous perspectives and allows people to get a feel of what it is like to attend a ParentNet Meeting. This brochure describes how it is used at ParentNet Facilitator Training for the purpose of training parent volunteers to lead your program as well as how it is utilized to help market ParentNet in your school community. Please refer to the Training Manual for specific instructions for incorporating the DVD into Facilitator Training.

Required Equipment

To view the DVD, you need either a computer or a television with a DVD player. If you want to display the videos on a large screen, you will require the addition of an LCD projector, usually available through the audio/visual department at your school.

What is ParentNet? (5 min)

This video is an excellent tool for conveying the message of ParentNet from the perspective of parents, students, teachers, facilitators, and school administrators. We suggest you use this video at school functions where parents gather. It is a great tool for beginning-of-year grade potlucks or any event where you can set up a television or large screen. This video can also be “looped” for continuous showing from a laptop computer or TV at a ParentNet table set up at a Back-to-School-Night or other event. **The looping feature** works differently, depending on whether you are showing the video from a laptop computer or from a DVD player through a television. From the main menu on a computer, scroll to the very bottom of the menu and highlight “www.parentnetassociation.org and Copyright 2003.” With this section highlighted, press the “Play” button. The DVD will continuously play the 5-minute video until you press “stop.” If you want to loop the video from a television with a DVD player, scroll to the “Training Activity”, then hit the back arrow to allow the menu to scroll down to the “www.parentnetassociation.org and Copyright 2003.” With this section highlighted, press the “Play” button. The DVD will continuously play the 5-minute video until you press “stop.”

A Closer Look at a ParentNet Meeting (12 min)

This video gives viewers a feel of what it is like to attend a two-hour ParentNet meeting. It is used in Facilitator Training as a way for everyone to see a sample meeting. If your school is new to ParentNet, this video will give participants a concrete idea of how a meeting is structured, how it is led, and the kinds of discussions that emerge. If your school has had ParentNet for several years or more, this video is an excellent model for how meetings are run, providing helpful reminders for experienced facilitators as well as important information for new volunteers. It can also be used at PTA meetings, new-parent orientations, and other occasions where parents are captive audiences for a longer period of time.

Training Activity (6 minutes)

The training video is not designed for general education or marketing. Used at ParentNet Facilitator Training, it provides parent volunteers with a glimpse of a real small-group discussion. It is an actual filming of the first six-minutes of a small group discussion on the topic of homework. Participants will observe the process of this discussion, paying particular attention to how the facilitators open the group and help get people talking. They will also observe how the Parent Contract is inadvertently broken and in what ways the facilitators and the participants help get the group back on track. Following the video, participants will discuss what facilitator skills were effective and additional ways that may have positively influenced the group. Please consult the Training Manual for a specific outline of how to use this video.

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www.parentinvolvementmatters.org