



Partnering for Student Success: Showcasing Our Instructional Model

The Falcon Zone, School District 49

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The Falcon Zone, made up of six schools in D49, is committed to Enhanced Opportunities, Engaging Environments, and Elevated Instruction. Through a weekly newsletter, The Falcon Zone Flyer, families can peek into classrooms, gaining insight into student learning and innovation. By showcasing the instructional model in action, the Falcon Zone highlights the incredible work happening across schools and fosters community partnership in education.

This initiative was a collaborative effort led by the Falcon Zone Community Liaison and supported by the zone's school principals and instructional coaches. Instructional coaches and principals provided key insights into classroom instruction, while the Zone Community Liaison visited classrooms, captured learning in action, and crafted the weekly newsletter.

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Mrs. Esquivel organized an exciting and interactive Science Day for her students, creating a dynamic learning environment filled with hands-on experiments and engaging activities. Throughout the day, students eagerly explored scientific concepts through a variety of experiments, sparking curiosity and enthusiasm for discovery. Laughter and excitement filled the classroom as they collaborated with their classmates, testing hypotheses, making observations, and experiencing the thrill of scientific exploration firsthand. It was a day of learning, creativity, and teamwork, leaving students with a deeper appreciation for science!



By providing families with a consistent, transparent view of what's happening in the classroom, the newsletter helped encourage parents to have meaningful conversations with their children about their learning. For teachers, the newsletter provided a platform to share best practices, fostering a culture of collaboration and continuous growth. Ultimately, by making learning visible, accessible, and celebrated, the newsletter served as a powerful tool for building community trust, reinforcing instructional priorities, and driving sustained school improvement.

While the impact of the newsletter has not been evaluated, the reach of the newsletter was determined

through open rates, click-through rates, and survey responses from parents and staff. Additionally, tracking community involvement at events helped determine if the newsletter influenced positive outcomes. Teacher and student testimonials, along with staff input, further gauged its influence on school morale and instructional focus. Continuous data collection and adjustments will ensure the newsletter evolves to meet its goals of enhancing learning and fostering a positive school climate.

When creating a newsletter, focus on clarity and consistency. Tailor content to the audience, using visuals and simple language to highlight key accomplishments. Engage families with interactive elements like surveys and feedback. Showcase the impact of the instructional model through specific examples. Falcon Zone Superintendent Brain Smith shared, "Our newsletters have helped the community understand our Falcon Zone Instructional Model centered around personalized learning in a much more meaningful way. Parents and the community are able to see pictures, videos, and testimonials from staff and students about the power and practice of EmpowerFZ."