

Meeting for Outreach to Non-English Speaking Parents

June 16, 2020

Attending: Ann Menna, Wanda Nouel, Nancy Sánchez, Sr. Sonia Avi, Leona Russell, Kathy Pfeffer

Ann explained that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss strategies for English-speaking DRE's who serve non-English speaking families- in particular, Spanish speaking families.

It is important to remember that many of the parents in these families are essential workers and have been working long hours. They are tired when they come home.

The Latino culture is people centered. Work with volunteers to reach out to the "family Church." Personal contact is important.

Suggestions:

Present small, manageable lessons for the parents to teach.

Consider a catechism approach- i.e. questions and answers

Makes sure that all resources are equal in both languages.

Try to avoid using children as translators.

1. Strategies for Communication

Talking Points App

Can set up 5 classes/groups per login. The parent can download the app for two-way stream (info to parents and back to DRE) or it can be used as text message only (SMS) - parents would not be able to respond back via text. They would have to respond back either via email or phone call. Can send pictures, PDFs, and links for video, files from computer, attaches documents and videos saved to google drive, and can run a poll for your parents. Can send text messages in English and it will translate into any language. It is used in some public school districts. PDF's, links can be attached.

Remind App

Basic version is free. Can set up to 10 classes with 150 contacts per class with free version. Bilingual capability. Can send messages with 160 characters (20 of which are used to identify the sender) and include attachments. Additional capabilities and higher numbers if you upgrade to a paid version. In order to be able to respond, you must download the app.

WhatsApp App

Another free app. Can create groups, face time, voice calls, text messages, attach links and documents. Send PDFs, documents, spreadsheets, slideshows and more, without the hassle of email or file sharing apps. You can send documents up to 100 MB. With just one tap you can record a Voice Message. It built end-to-end encryption into the latest versions of our app. When end-to-end encrypted, your messages and calls are secured so only you and the person you are communicating with can read or listen to them, and nobody in between, not even WhatsApp. Can share messages, photos, and videos with up to 256 people at once. You can also name your group, mute or customize notifications,

Google Classroom

A free app. The catechist can place the assignments for the children by class, but the students need to have G Suite in order complete the assignments. More info, go to:

<https://support.google.com/edu/classroom/answer/6376881?hl=en>

EdPuzzle

Basic plans are free for teachers and students. The catechist can place their power point presentation and ask questions, and the students can respond the question and will be graded. Used by more than 50% of US schools.

The above apps are free. Their capabilities may rely on the phone.

Be careful when using a translator tool. Sometimes the translation may not convey the correct meaning.

2. Take advantage of bi-lingual resources and books.
3. Record short (30 minute) classes for parents. Use these as instructional and training tools.
4. Identify and develop bi-lingual and bi-cultural coaches/leaders from the parish community. These coaches can assist in personal communications with families. It was suggested that there be a coach for each grade level who can assist the DRE in educating the parents, providing resources and communicating. These coaches can also assist parent who cannot read. The coaches provide support for both parents and DRE.
5. Facebook pages in Spanish and English

**These recommendations are also suitable for families from other cultures who do not speak English.