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Efficient and Effective Communication for Parents and Teachers

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Efficient and Effective Communication for Parents and Teachers

Abstract

Parent/Guardian-Teacher communication is essential for the success of students in any classroom. Communication is important because teachers need to know necessary information about students and things that may be happening in their home lives that may, in turn, affect their school work. Parents/guardians also need to know what is going on at the school in order to have active involvement in their child's education. Communication may take place in many forms: newsletters, e-mails, letters, conferences, home visits, telephone, homework folders, face-to-face, daily planners, etc. Due to the importance of communication in the classroom, this project is designed to find the most convenient and effective means of communication. This may vary due to different grade levels, economic variables, and topic of communication. The data collected from this project will aid in developing effective and efficient lines of communication between teacher and parents/guardians.

Disciplines

Education

Effective Communication Between Parents/Guardians and Teachers

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Background:

The purpose of this research is to discover the most effective forms of communication in both the opinions of parents/guardians and teachers in order to develop effective communication practices in a classroom environment.

Participants of this survey included teachers at a local elementary school site and parents/guardians of students attending the same elementary school.

Methodology:

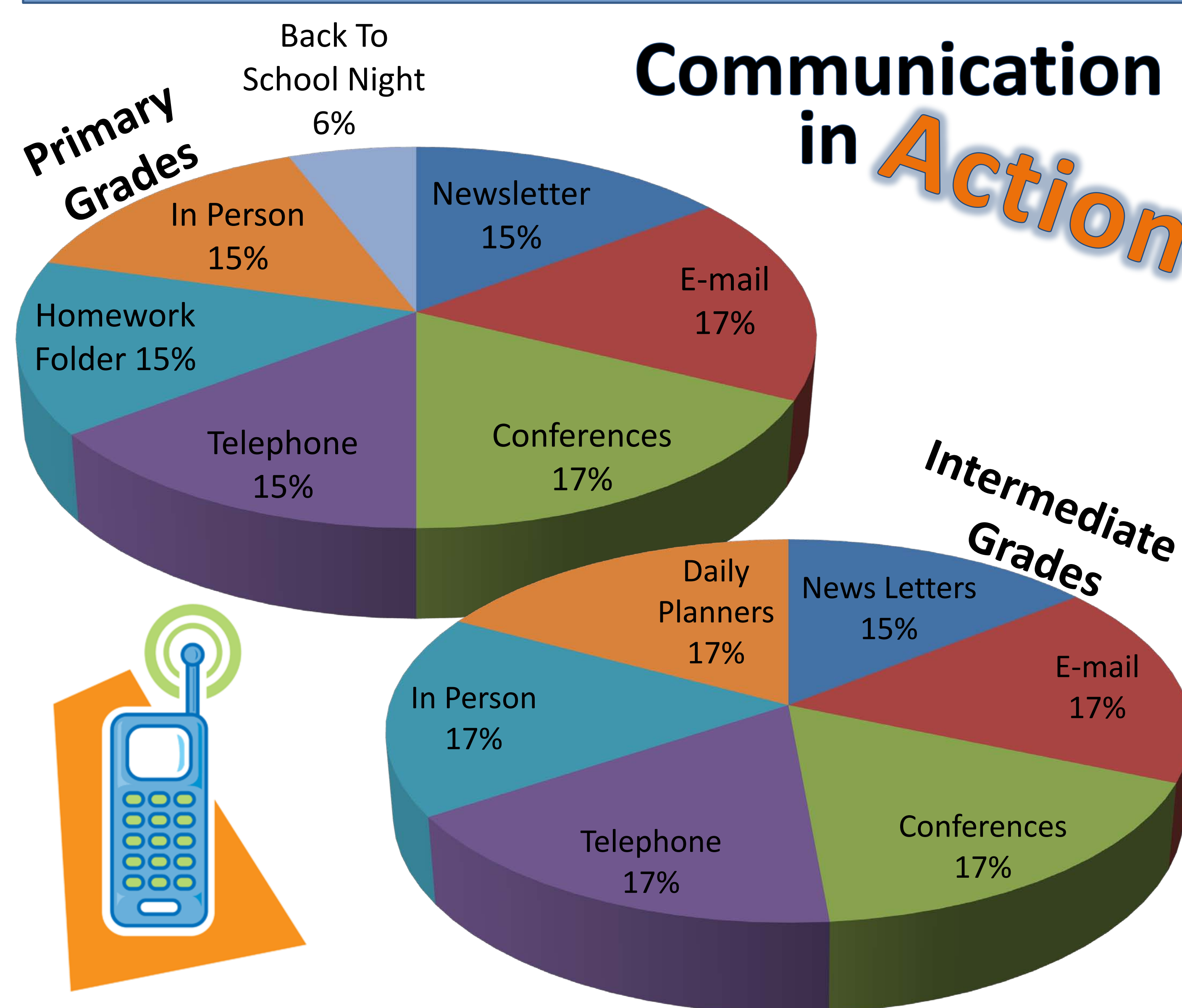
- A link to an online survey was sent to elementary teachers via e-mail. The online survey asked questions such as the type of communication they prefer to use with parents/guardians in their classroom, how often they regularly communicate with parents/guardians, and other questions pertaining to the communication they have with parents/guardians of students in their classrooms.
- A link to an online survey was also distributed to the parents/guardians of students attending the same elementary school. This online survey asked questions such as the forms of communication they prefer when communicating with teachers and the most effective ways for a teacher to communicate with them.
- I then analyzed the data by sorting Primary (K-3rd) and Intermediate (4th-6th) grade levels to gather data about communication differences and similarities in the different levels of education. I also analyzed the data as a whole to generate themes about communication throughout education.

Reflection:

Communication with parents/guardians of students in the classroom is essential to student success. In order to aid in my the development as a beginning teacher I wanted to find strategies used by practicing teachers and parent/guardian views on effective communication. With this research I have found important information to help build my communication practices as I enter into my career as an educator.

This research has helped me to understand parents'/guardians' views on the importance of communication with their child's teacher and effective ways to communicate with parents/guardians. I also learned there are many means of communication which may differ depending type of communication and scenario being communicated.

Parent Preferred Communication



Important Things to Remember About Communication Reported By Teachers:

“Setting up the room communication early in the year by having a parent meeting within the first few weeks of school helps to set the tone for open dialogue and places everyone on the same playing field.”

“Contact parents when students have done something good. We tend to only contact them when students are in trouble.”

“It is important to have data, charts, examples of the child's work to share with the parents. Visuals can assist parents in understanding their child's strengths and weaknesses.”

“I suggest that you always copy email communications with parents, so as to cover yourself if something comes up.”