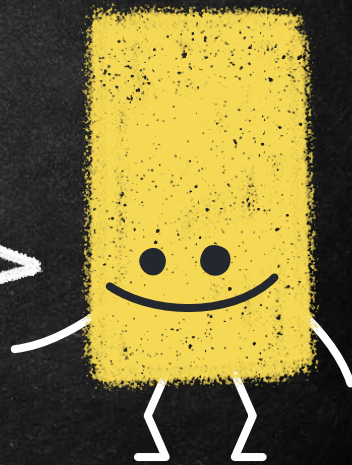
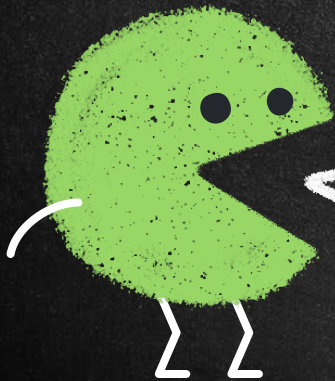




# Family Engagement: Partnering to Support Our Students

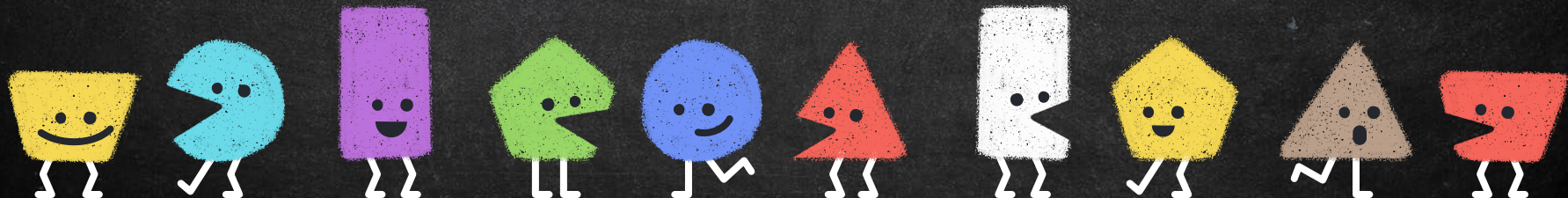
Sydney Chaffee,  
2017 National Teacher of the Year





# I Teach...

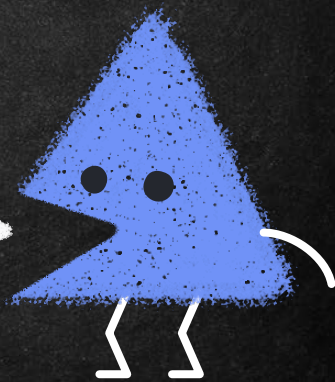
- A group of smart, funny, curious, and compassionate 9th graders in Boston
- Humanities 9: “Justice and Injustice” (English + history + theater)
- Inclusion setting
- Fully remote setting this year





# Tonight:

- What is family engagement, and why is it important?
- What are some barriers that may prevent schools and families from working together?
- How can families and school staff start the conversation, even at this point in the year?



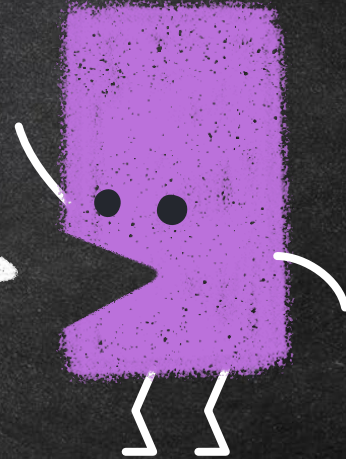


“

*Why is it  
**important** that  
schools and  
families work  
together?*



thoughtexchange

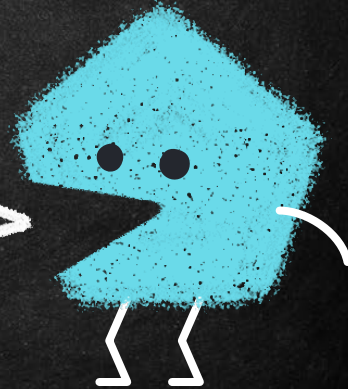
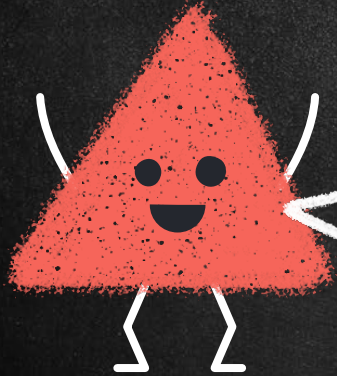






Families know their  
children best.

If educators don't partner  
intentionally with families, we  
will have an incomplete  
picture of the children we  
serve. We will not be able to  
effectively support them and  
help them **thrive**.





# Parent Involvement or Family Engagement?

Parent Involvement:

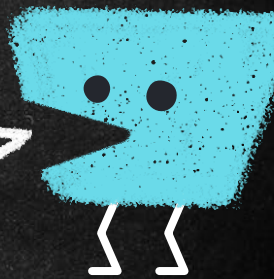
“identifying  
projects, needs,  
and goals and  
then telling  
parents how they  
can contribute” -

*Larry Ferlazzo*

Family Engagement:

“real, respectful  
partnerships  
between families  
and school staff” -

*Dr. Karen Mapp*





# Impact of Family Engagement:

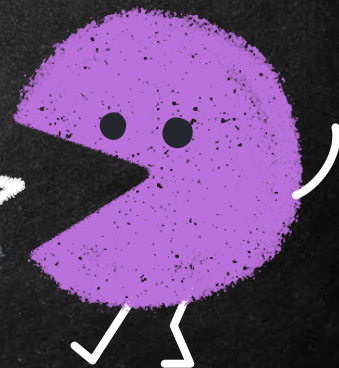
→ Improved:

- attendance\*
- academic outcomes\*
- attitudes about school\*
- social and emotional wellbeing\*

→ Holistic support for students

→ Greater trust between families & schools

→ Stronger curricula & communities



# Parent Involvement or Family Engagement?

Sending home a letter asking families to help raise money for an upcoming field trip

Meeting with families to get their input on workshops they would like to participate in

Conducting home visits to meet students and their families before the school year begins





# Parent Involvement or Family Engagement?

Inviting families to “Back -to- School Night” so they can meet the teachers and learn about the curriculum

Inviting families to be guest speakers in classrooms to share their knowledge with students

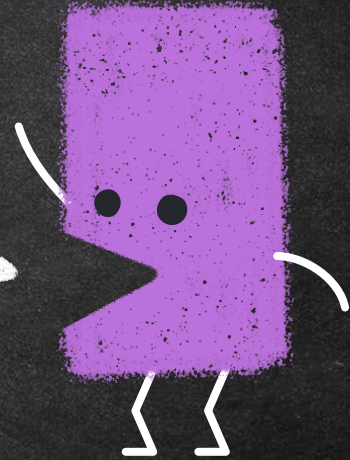
Asking families to read to their children at home each day





“

*What examples of  
true **family**  
**engagement** have  
YOU seen or been  
a part of?*

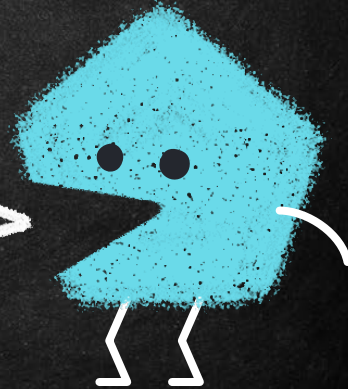
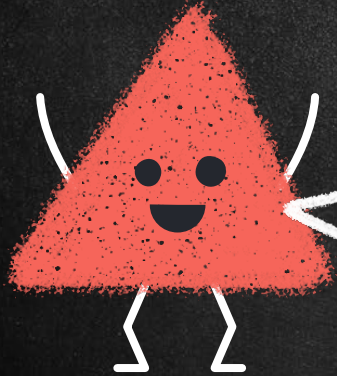






Families know their  
children best.

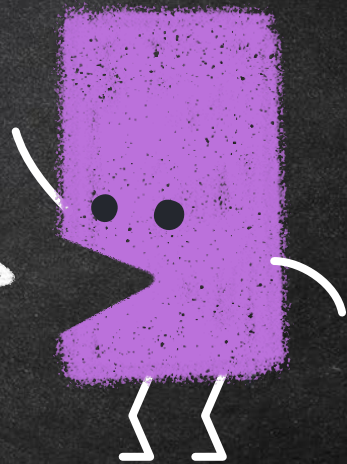
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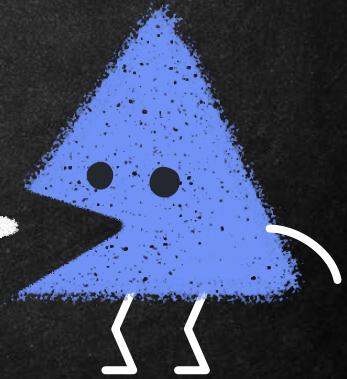
“

*What might  
**prevent** you from  
partnering with  
schools/  
with families?*





# Common Barriers to Family Engagement

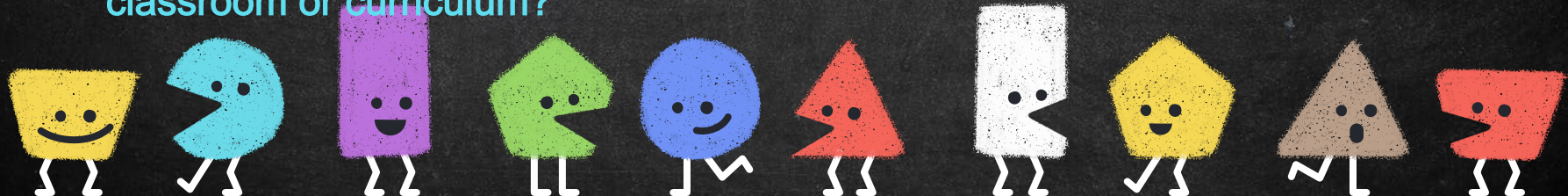




# How Can We Start the Conversation?

## Conversation starters for educators:

- What do you want me to know about your child?
- I've noticed \_\_\_\_\_. Do you have any suggestions for how I might better support your child?
- What is one thing you hope for your child?
- I want to share a piece of your child's work with you. This work shows how much they have grown because.... (Be specific about how the work shows learning.)
- What is one thing your child is an expert in?
- What is one part of your child's identity that you hope is reflected in our classroom or curriculum?



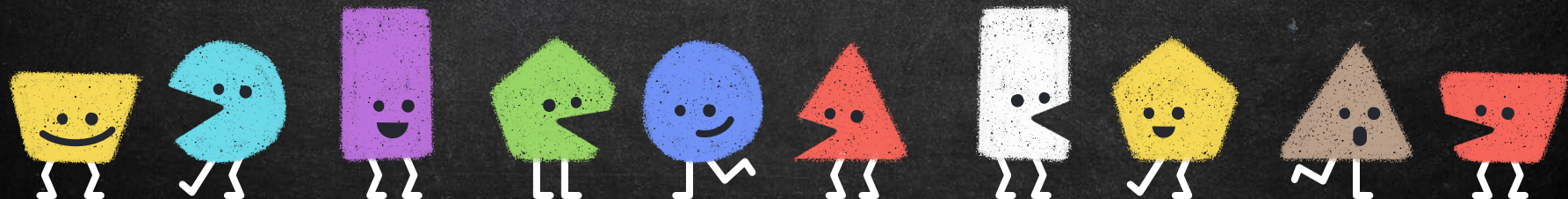




# How Can We Start the Conversation?

## Conversation starters for family members:

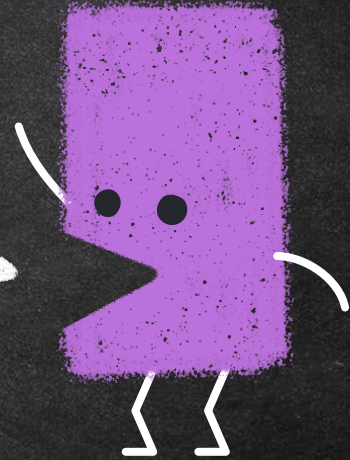
- How can I help my child at home?
- Is there a book, video, or other resource I can look at with my child to better understand what they are doing in your class?
- What is one thing you hope for my child?
- How has my child grown academically this year?
- How has my child grown as a person/friend/community member this year?
- How do you incorporate your students' identities and interests into this class?
- How can families can be involved in the work happening in this class?






“

*What other  
conversation  
starters have  
worked well for  
you?*







“A school striving for family involvement often leads with its mouth.... A school striving for parent engagement, on the other hand, tends to **lead with its ears**—listening to what parents think, dream, and worry about. The goal of family engagement is not to serve clients but to **gain partners** .”

- *Larry Ferlazzo*

