

# PBIS Early Learning Webinar

## Partnering with Families: Adapting to the New Norm



*October 14, 2020*

*Presenters: Allison O'Hara & Brandy Woolridge*



# Sign-In QR Code



| Instructions |   |
|--------------|---|
| Step 1:      | Place your cell phone camera over the QR Code on the left.  |
| Step 2:      | Complete the sign-in information  |
| Step 3:      | <b>Question #2- Which topic was covered?</b><br><b><i>Click</i></b> GaDOE/DECAL Early Learning Webinar Training |

# Learning Objectives

**At the end of this webinar participants will learn how to...**

- ✓ **Overcome barriers to school-home communication during Covid-19**
- ✓ **Discuss ways to build trusting and collaborative relationships with families**
- ✓ **Devise creative ways to approach communication**
- ✓ **Share strategies to engage families and the community**

## Barriers with Engaging Families

**What barriers have you faced  
while trying to engage families during  
Covid-19?**

# Barriers To School Home Relationships

## Covid-19

**Communication**

**Virtual Learning Expectations**

**Student Engagement**

**Limited Resources**

**Navigating Virtual Platform**

# Benefits of Building Relationships With Families

- **Builds mutual trust and respect**
- **Parents are more likely to accept professional observations and inferences about their child's development**
- **Parents may feel more comfortable volunteering and participating in school events**
- **Parents can create continuity between expectations at school and home so children can be more successful.**
- **Students awareness of school-home communication can promote better student engagement and cooperation**

# Staying Connected

*What strategies are you or your colleagues using to overcome communication barriers with families?*



# Parent Covid-19 Testimonies

*What is your child's school or teacher doing well in order to boost communication and connection with your family?*

**"Regularly scheduled meeting with me at least once a week"**

**"I can request a FaceTime meeting with the teacher whenever I want"**

**"Calling each parent personally to check on us and asking how we are doing"**

**"She is always encouraging us."**

**"Giving me regular reports on how my child is doing in class"**

**"The entire district keeps us up to date on the continuous changes. Communicates with us through their FB page and emails"**

**"She sends an email at the end of each week asking which lessons really 'hit home'"**

# Strategies to Engage Families and Build the Community

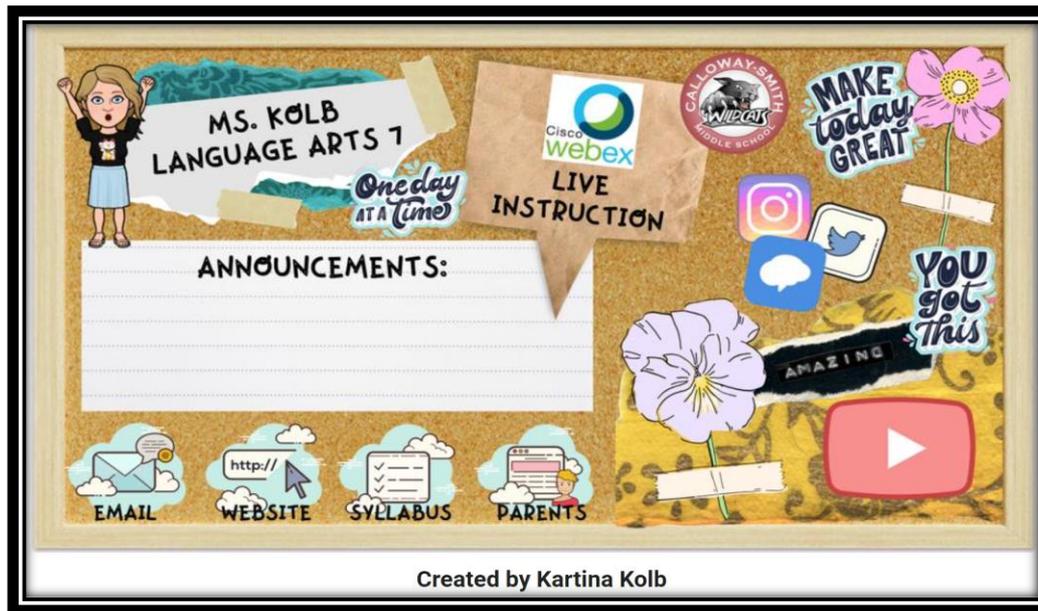
## Virtual Strategies



- **Start the day with a parent-guardian check-in**
- **Use a consistent schedule with regular breaks**
- **Encourage families to share pictures of children engaged in various activities throughout the day**

# Additional Strategies for Home-School Communication

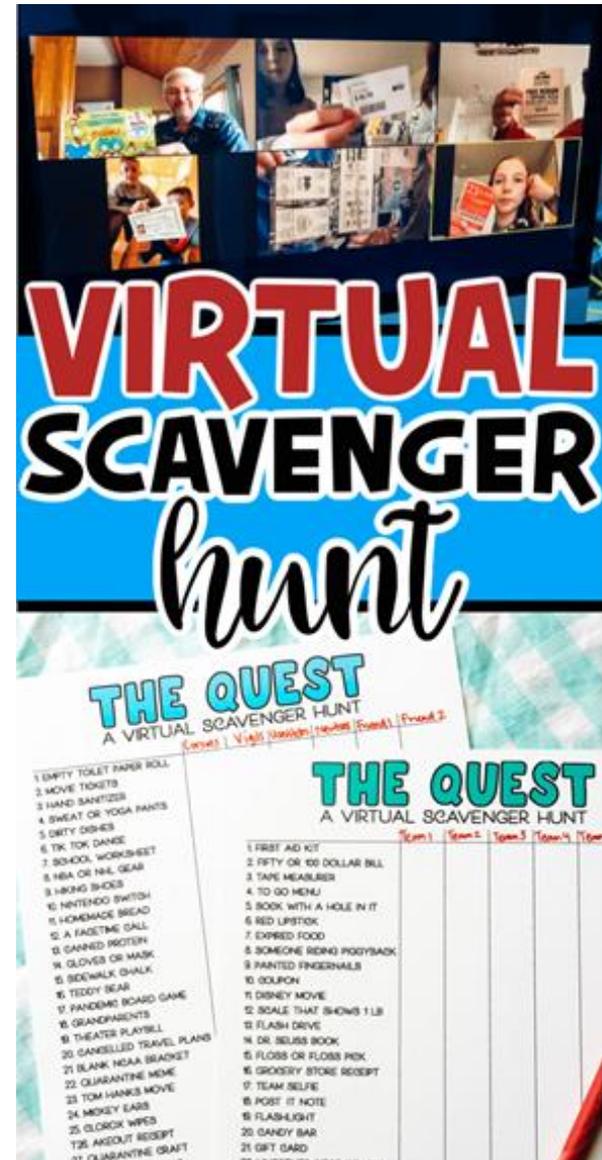
- **Develop a teacher-parent communication plan**
- **Create a virtual classroom community bulletin board**
- **Send home weekly classroom newsletter describing class activities, communicating important info, featuring a student/family each week**



Created by Kartina Kolb

# Strategies to Engage and Build Community

- Create virtual parent cafés or group chats
- Utilize social media platforms
- Transition typical in-person family engagement activities into virtual format



# Resources

## **UNICEF COVID-19: Tips for Schools on How to Strengthen Communication With Parents/Caregivers**

<https://www.unicef.org/romania/stories/tips-schools-how-strengthen-communication-parentscaregivers>

## **Strategies for Engaging and Supporting Parents During the Pandemic**

<https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources-and-podcasts/covid-19-resource-center/webinar-series/strategies-for-engaging-and-supporting-parents-during-the-pandemic>

## **Rethinking Family Engagement During School Closures**

<https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/rethinking-family-engagement-during-school-closures>

## **Simplifying Communication with Parents During COVID-19**

<https://donovan-group.com/simplifying-parent-communication-covid/>

## **Efficient and Effective Communication Strategies for Schools and Districts to Connect With Families During COVID-19**

<https://eab.com/insights/expert-insight/district-leadership/schools-and-districts-connect-with-families-during-covid-19/>

# Resources

## **Virtual Bulletin Board- Programs**

<https://tiie.w3.uvm.edu/blog/virtual-bulletin-boards/#.X4b-a9BKg2w>

## **Virtual Family Night Template**

<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Product/Virtual-Family-Fun-Night-a-School-Event-5513972>

# Evaluation



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**“Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world.”**

*-Nelson Mandela*

***Stay Positive and Safe. Thank you! 😊***

