

Bobby Rivera
Pahoa High & Intermediate School
Pahoa, Hawaii



Project P.M (Partnership Memories)

We would love to have the chance to be principals for a day! We would suggest an awesome idea to hopefully improve the level of parental involvement at Pahoa High & Intermediate School.

What is this great idea? It is called: "Project P.M." (Partnership Memories). The goal of the program would be to encourage parents/guardians to become more involved in their children's education. The program would also increase technology skills through the use of digital photography and computers.

The program would involve three simple steps. The first step would be to plan and promote various ways to encourage "partnerships" between parents, teachers and students. Partnership activities would include any activity where parents are working with their children after school hours. (This feature is designed to include as many parents as possible, since many parents work during school hours.) A list of partnership activity suggestions would be distributed to all parents.

The second step of the program would be to implement the program. All stakeholders would be encouraged to take digital photographs of their partnership activities. This phase could range in time from one to eight months.

The third step would be to assemble the digital photos into a "memory-book." This phase could be done in various ways. One way would be to collect all of the digital photos from a class or grade-level. A coordinator would then select the best photos to be featured in the memory-book.

Another way to create the memory-book would be for each student to create his/her own book with only the photos that he/she took. This option, of course, would create a smaller, yet more personalized book of cherished memories. (This is the option that our class would like to "field-test.")

We have also researched various commercial computerized memory-book programs that could be used for such a partnership program. We would recommend a particular product by Epson called: "StoryTeller." The product offers two memory-book sizes, along with a 10-or 20-page option. This product would be a great "fit" for our proposed program. Each student would be able to easily create his/her own book and be motivated to "fill up" the pages!

In conclusion, we feel our proposed "Project P.M." would be an effective way to increase parental involvement in their children's education. The program focuses on increasing the quantity, as well as the quality of time that parents spend with their children. Most parents would be able to participate due to the "after school" criterion. The program is flexible and easily adaptable to any school setting.

The computerized memory-book feature would be a great incentive! Everyone would want one—but that would mean that everyone would need to work on planning, implementing and documenting their own partnership activities. In the long run, the program would be a "win-win" situation for everyone! Parents, teachers, and students would not only document invaluable memories, but they would also establish partnerships that would increase the learning potential of everyone involved.