



MEN OF CLASS

Wanted: More Volunteer Dads

It's become an article of faith among experts that parental involvement—either through Home and School Associations or more informally—is directly linked to children's school success.

With moms, of course, this sort of participation, especially in the elementary grades, is hardly a new thing. Yet a growing number of dads are following suit due to a variety of social factors: the increasing ranks of the self-employed, flexible work hours and dual-income families, as well as a gradual erosion of the gender stereotype. In two-parent families, the involvement of both parents in school is significantly associated with a greater likelihood of their children getting mostly A's, enjoying school, and being less likely to repeat a grade.

:: Ways in which Dads can help out ::

- ☺ Ask the Principal or the President of the Home and School Association where they need volunteers;
- ☺ In the classroom: In the lower grades most teachers welcome another set of hands for everything from helping out with snacks to tutoring math or reading;
- ☺ On field trips: chaperones and drivers are always needed;
- ☺ In the library: acting as 'reading role models': e.g. hockey dad for Hockey Day;
- ☺ Fundraising, networking, career days;
- ☺ Coaching sports teams, managers, drivers;
- ☺ Lunchtime and after-school programs: sports, chess, mentoring, tutoring;
- ☺ Leadership: Governing Board, Home and School Association;
- ☺ Playground reconstruction or landscaping and gardening;
- ☺ School websites and newsletters;
- ☺ Mentoring at the high-school level; for example, helping to organize company tours.

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