

Additional Links and Resources

<https://www.edutopia.org/article/using-family-photos-create-belonging>

<https://www.lindseygeorgephotographyomaha.com/blog/studies-prove-kids-benefit-from-family-photos-displayed-at-home/>

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbeshumanresourcescouncil/2022/04/19/10-ways-to-bridge-the-communication-gap-across-generations-in-the-workplace/?sh=753dd68a3889>

Extended Thoughts and Questions:

We must run the playbook of using things that strong families do, to strengthen community at the school and community wide levels. This is why family photo projects, shared meals, shared experiences face to face are vital. In many cases, kids aren't getting the benefit of a strong family experience at home, and so we should attempt to provide that benefit where we can. However, we can always choose to be gracious in standing with families, and help them strengthen themselves if they're willing, always assuming the best of people.

How can we provide ways for caregivers to contribute to conversations about successful families and students? Quarterly newsletter that features a different caregiver each issue, sharing some of their best thoughts? Host personal growth trainings for younger caregivers to help them foster healthy home life and reduce their stress. Could we conceptualize this as an offline Facebook group? How would this function if the Internet was broken for a few years? What are some easy-to-do opportunities you could offer the caregiver community to do some of this community building work for one another? Can we build a list of do-these-anytime tasks that would provide a lot of leverage and cross-pollinate the caregivers with each other socially? Rotate locations for a quarterly family friendly supper at Gatti's or what have you. Do a pizza night at the school to share information, invite them to take some kind of action, and do a door prize. Piggyback on existing school events to promote community building activities, introduce people to each other, etc.

Downs, Hannah (2019) "Bridging the Gap: How the Generations Communicate," Concordia Journal of Communication Research: Vol. 6, Article 6. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.54416/SEZY7453>
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.csp.edu/comjournal/vol6/iss1/6>

Quote from the abstract: “The study ultimately found that overall, it is not that generations inherently perceive each other negatively, but that generations believe they will be perceived negatively by others and act accordingly.”

How human is that? My takeaway from the quote is that people have something in common: we are lacking a feeling of community in our lives at all ages, and we can see this in the distrust that comes so naturally as we look across the generational landscape at one another.

The authors believe the difference in communication styles itself is causing conflict between the generations.

H’s idea: a positive touch is a positive touch. When you get into the literature on different generations, you learn about the preferred communication styles, but I have seen high school age kids get a lot of fulfillment from a hand written note. Research based systems like PBIS reveal that the magic is in the ratio of positive to negative feedback students receive. The goal is to outweigh the negative, and when it’s being implemented, nobody is being cautioned to throttle back the positive. You need as much as you can get, because the negative happens frequently and automatically. The positive influence must fight the uphill battle of being a low priority for overworked people.