

# Henderson County Schools

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TO: Dr. Thomas L. Richey, Superintendent  
Henderson County Board of Education

FROM: Marganna Stanley, Asst. Superintendent of Administration

DATE: August 8, 2011

RE: Home Visit Blitz

A five question survey was sent to teachers following the home visit blitz. Below are the responses and attached are written comments.

How many students were on your blitz list for a home visit? 29.90  
(many teachers went in teams)

How many homes had someone there to meet you? 14.73

In hours, how long did it take you to complete your visits? 4.74 hours

Did you view this as a positive and productive day? 81.5% yes 18.5% no

Please enter any comments (see attachment)

## Home Visit Blitz

Number	Response Text
1	If we are going to the home, let's go ahead and have conversations instead of doing that also.
2	Great as an outreach... but students and parents still need to visit school to see room, get supplies in, and find out 1st day procedures. Class list changes as enrollment differs. Some kids will not have teacher who visited them.
3	Both teachers and students get to meet each other before the first day of school. This allows students to get to see the teacher on their turf instead of in a school setting making them more comfortable on the first day of school. The teachers get an opportunity to see where the child is living and what the environment is like. This also allows for parents to ask any questions they may have about the first few days of school.
4	I usually meet all but maybe 2 of my parents. I feel I am not prepared to start the year. I always know more information about my students i.e. how they get home.
5	I believe the blitz started too early as many parents and children were still asleep. One parent was even irate that we had come to her house at 8:30.
6	For the last 2 years I have taught, all but 2-3 parents and their child came to Conversations. This year for home visits, only 9 parents and students were home (less than half). So, I was unable to talk to a lot of parents and students going on the home visits vs. parent conversations. For those parents and students who were home to visit with, I was only able to stay for about 5 minutes to talk with them. This was not enough time to talk to them about information that is usually talked about during conversations (studnet: what they did over the summer, what their classroom now looks like, and where they will sit- a lot of students have some anxiety about new places; parent discussion: student struggles/achievements, health concerns, etc., and see the atmosphere where their child will learn; and teacher discussions: procedures for planners, red folders, notes, money, homework, reading logs, and what will be taught: fluency and fry sight word checks, etc. As well as a very important element to conversations (especially for younger students or dual custody students)- which bus they will ride, pick up, or daycare. Parent conversations were more productive for students, parents, and teachers to communicate with each other to begin the
7	I drove 65 miles and was not able to meet with as many parents as I usually meet with while doing Conversations. I only spoke with 3 of my students. I feel that if these visits are to make teachers more aware of their students environment they should be done by the middle and high school teachers. Elementary teachers spend 6 hours a day with our students. We are VERY aware of their home environment.
8	Only 8 of my families wre home and I only met 2 students. Conversations are much more beneficial because you get my time one on one with students and parents. Safety is also a concern with home visits.
9	I thought it was great to see my parents and students in their homes. However, I feel like the conversation we had was not as informational as the conversations I had last year during conversations day when the parents could talk with me privately in my classroom without their child listening in.
10	our car thought is was beneficial that every person in the car get out and go to every house on the list so that all the students were able to see the staff as a team.
11	Its a great way to visit your kids and see their homes/environment.
12	not many people home would like for the kids to come to school to see their room too
13	It was very eye opening to see the conditions that these students live in. We did recieve some interesting notes on some doors that we went to. We were also able to discover that some students have moved and no longer lived there.
14	Great idea to partner with the community, however this blitz replaced our conversation day in which the parents/children get to see their classroom. This was not accomplished.... I enjoyed the day and it was productive, however not sure if the cost involved outweighs the benefit????

15	I didn't encounter any problems. The parents were extremely appreciative. I wasn't a fan of the decision because of all of the uncertainties involved. It turned out better than I expected.
16	I will miss the parent conversations. The home visits did not allow us to get to know the kids in the same manner as conversations do. It was good to see the environment from which the kids come from.
17	The visiting time could be changed to meet more families time schedules. Some people were asleep. Some men were at home because they work the third shift, and they did not want to be disturbed. 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. two nights would be better. Many families were working families with children at day care.
18	Home visits are a positive way for teachers to reach to families and show dedication to the students!
19	I think that it would be beneficial to have teachers contact the families before the visits to ensure the family will be home and to give them an idea of what time they might be there. This would cut down on the time and money spent traveling to homes where families either no longer lived or weren't home. This would allow parents who were uncomfortable with having teachers visit the chance to request that they not go to their houses (this just made for uncomfortable circumstances at homes where teachers were not wanted). This would also allow parents to have a better idea of when they should try to be home so that they wouldn't have to take as much time off work and also spend the day waiting. After having the chance to do this, I really don't think it would be that difficult to come up with a time to estimate to parents.
20	Next time please inform parents to have a house number posted on their house or mailbox.
21	It would have been helpful if the students had been sent something to place on their mailbox or in their front yard to let the staff know that a student lives there since several houses didn't have addresses or numbers on the house
22	I did not get to meet over half of my kindergarten students. I usually meet almost all of my students when we have conversations at the school.
23	A school option should be in place also before school starts. This way students can also come and see their classroom before school starts.
24	Overall, it was a good day. We greatly appreciated the lunch and those who cooked/served the delicious food. The only thing we may need to do differently is to communicate to parents more clearly that this event was NOT designed to be a lengthy, detailed conversation about their child. It was simply meant to be a "meet and greet" situation, and we were NOT going to be entering their homes. Our team found that several parents misunderstood what was going to take place during the blitz. More parents MAY have opened their doors if they were positive that we were not coming inside. Our team had a very positive experience meeting roughly half of those on our list. It was also a great chance for us to work together as a team. We ended up laughing a LOT!
25	These numbers are for the whole third grade team at Jefferson who went in the same vehicle. It might be more productive if we went at a later time when more people would be home.
26	I love doing Home Visits. It takes a while for parents to realize the productivity of the event, but it pays off in the end. It is integral part of building our cultural. Our kids recognize that connection between the home and the school, because in their mind it became linked and thus drive a personal aspect that they may not have possessed previously.

27	I understand why we did the home visits but I have always had much more participation from parents on parent conversation night. I usually see all parents except maybe 2 or 3 at the most. I think the kids like being able to see their room and bring school supplies in too. Most home we went to were not home or did the answer the door. There were also two houses we couldn't find at all because the addresses weren't complete. It was quite frustrating. The six that were home were good visits and the kids were excited that I had come to visit. Overall I have mixed emotions about the day.
28	I enjoyed home visits A LOT but miss that we didn't have some kind of activity/event at school before the 1st Day of School. For the working parents I was unable to meet them and during the home visit blitz, TIME was an issue. I didn't feel like I was able to talk or answer questions for parents. Some parents and students haven't been in my room and are nervous about beginning a new year/changes. Coming to school, looking around and talking to teachers in OUR environment is comforting for them. Some students go by nicknames or their name is spelled differently and I usually am able to correct these things during our open house/conversations at school before the 1st Day of School. I know this may be crazy but I would like to do home visits and a Back to School(at night) activity before the 1st Day of School. We can't cater to nonworking parents.
29	I loved seeing where my kids lived and where they come from! This was a huge eye opener for me and I gained a better understanding about my students. I loved every moment!!
30	It turned out to be a nice day all in all. From my personal perspective I feel that conversations are more beneficial to me as a teacher. We always have a great turnout for conversations at our school. I feel parents would be more relaxed meeting the teacher, and viewing the learning environment for their child. I felt that during conversations I can get to know more about the student and family.
31	Each home needs to be visited...even those outside of the school's district. Something needs to be given to each child. The packet is basically for parents to complete. Mileage considerations need to be revisited for county schools. Some teachers drove 100 miles or more making visits. Visa cards need to be available for use at all gas stations in Henderson County. Cards are not accepted at a few gas stations. These are just minor adjustable items. It was a very successful day!!
32	1. Great first impression. [] 2. There were a number of parents/children awakened before 11 and some not home. Would changing the time bring the percentage up and avoid waking up late sleepers? (2-6) or (1-5)[] 3. Completed class list might have been helpful to answer the many request from papers as to who their child's teacher would be.
33	I felt like the home visits were a good experience, but I really miss our parent/teacher conferences before school. I didn't get to "talk" with the parent and learn about their child like I would in a conversation.
34	I thought this day was very productive and a great way to see/meet the kids and their families.
35	It was wonderful. I hope to continue each year. Getting to visit students in my class prior to the year beginning was very beneficial.
36	Great program! It is nice that Henderson County Schools are setting the bar!
37	For this being the first time our school has participated, I feel it was a great success!
38	Thank you for the delicious lunch that was provided and the massage was a nice touch!
39	Home visits are a great way to start developing relationships with students and parents. There are many parents I would never meet at all if we didn't do home visits.
40	I love it!!! It makes my day to see their smiling and excited faces!!!

41	I know we were supposed to stay outside the home for safety sake, but I felt it made the conversations less personal. Perhaps it would help if parents were given an estimated time the teacher would be there and asked to respond whether they would be home or not.
42	I loved the home visit blitz! I think we should do it every year!
43	The kids were so excited peeking out of their windows! So yes it was worth it. However, I do still feel for K we need conversations as well to meet the needs of more working parents.
44	Surprisingly, it went incredibly smooth! I was concerned about the involved logistics, but we'd both mapped out our target homes and teamed up to assist each other. All the parents/others, that were home/babysitting family/etc., welcomed (us) and seemed very appreciative of the chance to meet/speak with us. It really was very informative (seeing where our children lived), great to meet and talk with adults, hug children, and have great fun in all! Let's do it again!
45	It was a wonderful experience. The students that I got to see were very excited that we had come to their home to meet them.
46	would have like to have lunch at home school, maybe also visit in the evening to meet students whose parents were working
47	Out of the 11 homes, only 6 had parents present. The other 5 only had the child at home. Getting to visit with those were a positive aspect of the day. Having the time to talk to our counselor (my traveling partner) was very positive as we were able to discuss situations that we heard about/witnessed on these visits.
48	Many parents commented that they would like to have the opportunity to bring their child to the classroom for a visit & drop off school supplies BEFORE the first day. My suggestion would be for us to have an "Open House" or "Conversation Night" before school starts, then "Home Blitz" the families that were unable or didn't attend.
49	The students were pleased to see us. I think this should be continued.
50	Enjoyed making contact with students and parents and really knowing where our students come from. It was a long, hot day, but there were many smiles and hugs :)
51	For the amount of time it took to find the homes, then just leave packets on the door when nobody was home was a waste of time. I believe more parents could have been contacted by the school holding an open house before Aug. 4th in the evening. It is more beneficial for the parents to be at school, see the classroom, and have an opportunity to ask questions than for us to drive around looking for them.
52	It was good to see where my students lived - was shocking to me! Perhaps the time wasn't the best because so many were probably at work. Perhaps a Saturday would be better.
53	I typically had more parents attend conversations. The majority of my parents were at work and many had contacted me to tell me just to leave the bag or they would pick it up. I also feel that I get a better discussion and meeting at conversations than at this type of home visit. Maybe the district could consider each school looking at their data and doing what works best for their families. Another consideration would be doing conversations on a day and then having a home visit day for those that could not attend. Then we are trying to meet the needs of all. I know it was very successful for some teachers and schools. We just need to remember not to clump everyone into the same category as large as our district is. Look at what is best in each separate situation. Also I would like to get feedback from our school parents to see which they prefer. I am a county school. Maybe that made some difference.
54	All students need a visit, even those outside of the school's district. Each bag needs to include something for the child. The bags contained the packet for the parents to complete.

55	This kids we saw were excited to see us and most admitted they were ready to come back to school. One was afraid we had homework in the bag so he was relieved to know the papers were for mom to complete.
56	It was great to visit the homes to have an idea of the students' background before we even meet them on the first day. I believe that this will prove a valuable component in building relationships with our students.
57	It would have been more productive if we would visit homes in the afternoon/evening. The majority of my families work during the day
58	The biggest problem that I had was that many of the houses did not have numbers easily visible!!!! To me that was a danger, especially on the curvy, back country roads.
59	This is a waste of time, money, and personnel. It is an ineffective way of making contact with parents and students. Some people were home ,but did not come to the door. I know that because I went back to get a bag off the wrong apartment door and it was gone less than 2 minutes after I had hung it out. I also had parents tell me that they thought it intrusive and took offense that we came to their homes unannounced. No one made any positive comments. Home visits, in my opinion (and I think) others, should be reserved for those parents who WON'T or CAN'T come in. With our finances and economy being what they are, I don't feel this is a good use of our personnel and funds.
60	It was an eye-opening experience for me, and it was a very positive thing; however, I wish I had been able to meet more students and parents- it didn't turn out to be very productive overall. I would prefer to have an open house prior to the start of school so families are more freed up to come in and chat!
61	Positive experience!
62	Felt like the parents we caught at home would be less likely to come to school to meet us!
63	Overall, I thought this was a positive experience. Some houses were visited several times due to siblings at the same school. It would be nice if that could be eliminated.
	It was nice seeing where and what conditions my students live in.