

Greater New York Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
Office of Education

PRAYER BREAKFAST

Purpose

- To create a harmonious “bonding” between the home, church, and school.
- To identify and encourage support by the “key” players in a successful school operation—parents, students, constituent pastors, the home and school, and school staff.
- To acknowledge that prayer is an essential part in the fulfillment of the mission of Christian education.

Who Should Coordinate Program

- The Home and School Association prepares breakfast buffet; the principal/teacher coordinates the program in consultation with the school staff and school board chair.

When Should It Be Held

- The Office of Education recommends the first or second Sunday after commencement of classes for the new school year.

Who Should Attend

- The school staff, board members, constituent pastor(s), home and school leaders, parents and students.

Announcement of Program

The **Prayer Breakfast** should be announced through the following sources:

1. The church bulletin
2. The principal (with authorization from appropriate church officials) should announce this on Sabbath during the regular “announcement period” at the local constituent church.
3. School newsletter (if applicable)
4. Personal letter from school to parents, board members, home and school leaders.

Suggested Format of Program

The following schedule is to be used as a **guideline** in developing an effective format for a Prayer Breakfast:

Welcome.....	Home and School Leader
Opening Prayer.....	A parent
Introduction of Speaker.....	School Board Chair or school principal
Sermonette (10-15 min.).....	The pastor (if school is served by several constituent pastors, one is to be selected)

The sermonette should “touch” on the following topics:

- Importance of developing harmonious relationships between the home-church school.
- Importance of mutual support between teachers/parents/church in an effective school operation.
- The mission of Adventist education—first and foremost—the salvation of our children.

Prayers of Dedication

- Delivered by home and school leader (on behalf of the Home & School Association)
- Delivered by school board chair (on behalf of the school board)
- Delivered by school principal (on behalf of school staff)
- Delivered by pastor (prayer emphasizing unity among each of the key entities: Home & School, school board, school staff, parents and students.

Breakfast Buffet

Use your creativity to determine what items are to be included in breakfast buffet (i.e. various juices—orange, grapefruit etc., hardboiled eggs, pancakes, hot and cold cereals, fruits etc.)

Plans for the Coming School Year

- Home and School Leader introduces the Home and School officers (if already chosen). Home and School Leader, in a **maximum of five minutes**, identifies some of the main activities planned for the coming school year.
- School Board Chair introduces the members of the school board. The school board chair, in a **maximum of five minutes**, identifies the main functions of the school board. (Refer to Atlantic Union Conference School Board Manual for assistance.)
- Principal or principal/teacher introduces himself/herself. (In schools where there is principal/teacher and one of more teachers, teacher assistant(s), custodian etc., the principal introduces the entire staff, **individually**.)

- The principal, in a **maximum of 30 minutes**, identifies several of the major goals of the school for the coming school year (including various school policies such as):
 - Dress code
 - Discipline code
 - Process to be followed by parents in addressing school-related concerns
 - School policy regarding tuition payments
 - School calendar
 - Special programs planned during the school year: Week-of-Prayer, Health Emphasis Week, special school field trips etc.
 - Regular communication with parents regarding grades and discipline
 - Creation of a Christian school culture
 - The impact of television on values and grades
 - The school's vision of Excellence in Education

How the above items are presented can either gain the loyalty and support of parents or "turn them off." Be **positive**. Speak with a **good Christian spirit**. Project **enthusiasm**. Let the parents, students, etc. "catch" your vision.

Question/Answer Period

The principal, home and school leader, school board chair "field" questions from the audience about school-related issues.

Break-out Session in Classroom(s)

Parents/students are requested to join the teacher in the classroom. The following is a **suggested** format of items to be discussed:

1. How parents can help in child's educational process
2. Grading policy
3. Homework policy
4. Attendance policy
5. Classroom rules
6. What parents expect from teacher
7. What teacher expect from parents
8. How teacher will make Jesus Christ and spiritual values meaningful, relevant, and the most important phase of school operation.

Session should close with a question/answer period (a maximum of 10 minutes).

Dismissal Prayer

To take place in classroom. (Reminder: Thank parents for coming and indicate that you look forward to the opportunity of working with them cooperatively for the coming school year.)