

Community Connections: The Conversation

	Community Connection #1: <i>Wichita Water Center</i>	Community Connection #2:	Community Connection #3:
	Business Faith- Based Civic <u>Other</u>	Business Faith- Based Civic Other	Business Faith- Based Civic Other
Considerations			
<p>What questions do we need to consider to help us connect with our community? For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are our common goals? • What are our common challenges and/or needs? • How can we make the relationship collaborative? • How can we make the relationship mutually beneficial? • Who needs to be involved (school and community representatives)? 	<p><i>What do we have in common?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We both have education program and belong to the same geographical community <p><i>How can the relationship be mutually beneficial?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We can promote their programs and facilities to our staff and families, students could volunteer there, we could use their facilities for family nights, they could speak to Science classes about conservation <p><i>Who should be involved?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Principal, Science Teachers, Site Council, Family Engagement Team, Water Center manager and employees 		
Making The Connection			
<p>What steps do we need to take to connect with different groups? For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business: Utilize the expertise of a neighboring business. • Faith-Based Organization: Offer to share school information for the weekly bulletin. • Community/Civic Group: Attend a meeting and share about your school. • Other: Host a Community Coffee. Invite neighbors to the school, honor them and share about your school. 	<p><i>Do a Community Porch Visit</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Connect with the manager - Learn about their facilities and programs - Invite the manager to Site Council - Leave information about the school <p><i>Follow up with an e-mail to the manager</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ask how the school can support the Water Center (sharing info in newsletter, distributing flyers or other info, service projects, etc.) - Ask if there are ways they would like to be involved at the school (sharing information with science classes, offering their facility for school activities or field trips, etc.) 		

The evidence is consistent, positive, and convincing: communities have a major influence on student achievement in school and throughout a student’s life. When schools and the surrounding community build relationships they support learning; children tend to do better in school, stay in school longer, and like school more. (Henderson, Mapp, Johnson and Davies)

