Celebrating Family Science with STEAM

Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math

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Introduction

Family support is a valuable component to student success in the classroom. I am attempting to strengthen that bond through a series of after school science nights.



Questions

1. How can increases in positive science experiences help increase student motivation?
2. What impacts does a STEAM family science night have on student, teacher, and family involvement and participation?
3. Can an increase in positive school experiences help build family relations in order to increase learning?





Methodology

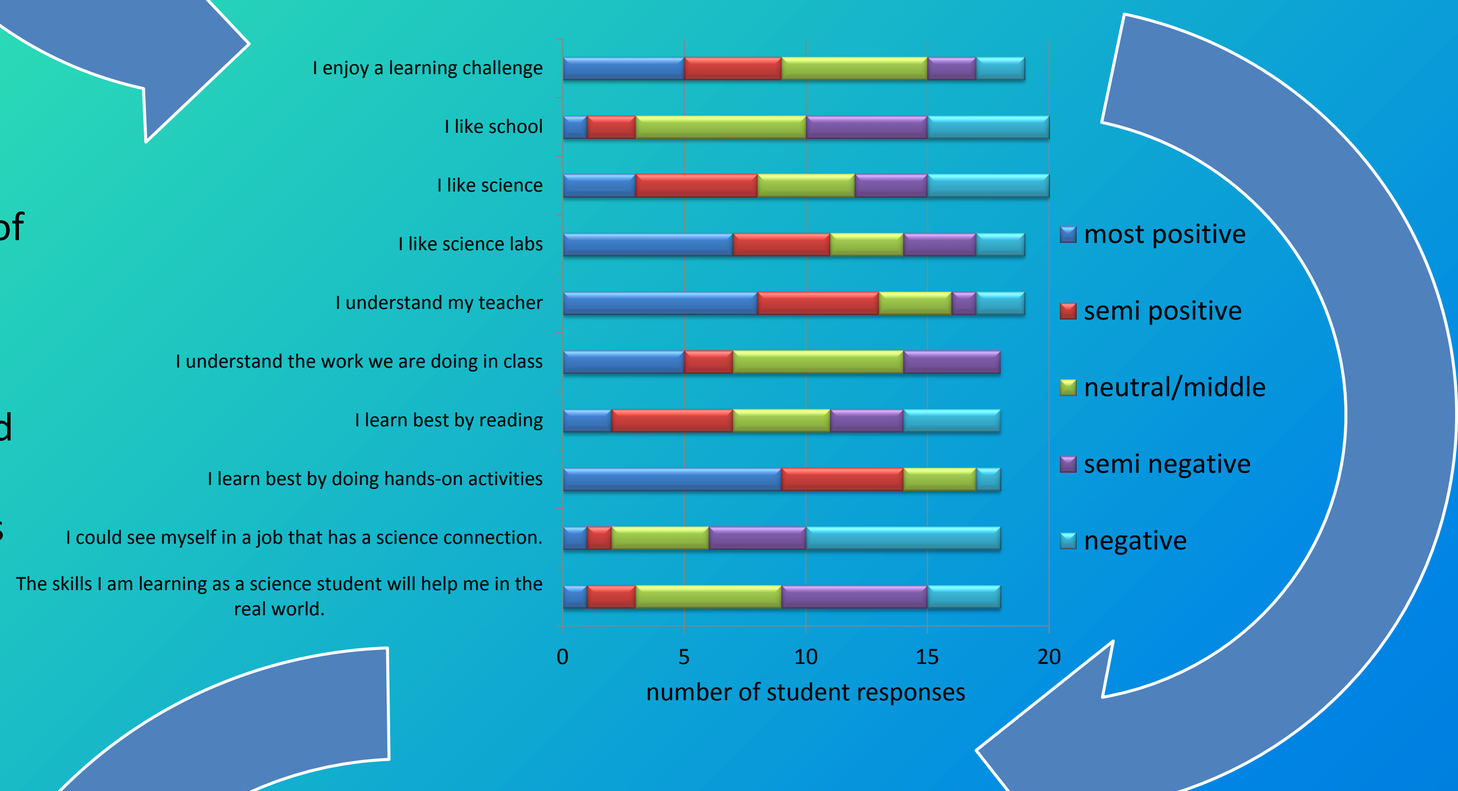
Students and their families participated in a variety of activities over a series of five science nights, one night per month. Parents were interviewed before the first night event at parent –teacher conferences. The students completed pre and post surveys. In addition to the surveys, I monitored the classroom performance and participation/active involvement at each event.

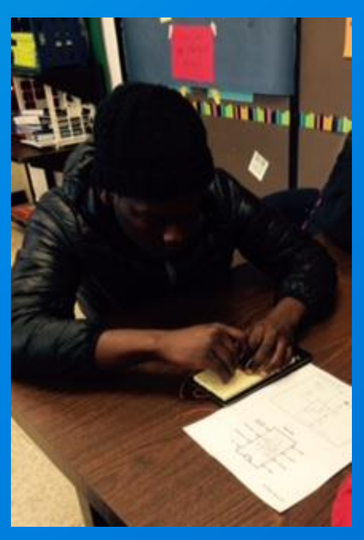




Results

Creating an after school science program geared towards resistant or struggling learners presented a host of challenges. The students that participated enjoyed themselves. I heard things like, “This is really cool”, “Look ma” and “I was looking forward to this all week!” However, no night had more than 2 student participants and only 1 parent came along, ever.







Conclusions and Implications

Even though the participation was extremely limited, the experiences were enriching and rewarding. The students were genuinely interested in the activities. One little sister was very excited to be a part of it. The attending mom was able to sit back and enjoy her children’s enthusiasm. My next step is to collaborate with other educators on ways of increasing family involvement.





