

Mission Viejo Elementary School adopted the All Pro Dad program to give fathers the opportunity to be more involved in their children’s education. Mission Viejo staff wanted to implement a research-based family, school, and community partnership (FSCP) initiative and All Pro Dad fit the bill; research shows a father’s presence in a child’s life results in a positive outlook at school.

The program was led by 4th grade teacher, Mr. Charles Kastens, and the principal, Mr. Andre Pearson. Together they worked with a curriculum provided by All Pro Dad. The curriculum included themes of Gratitude, Empathy, and Purpose. The curriculum also included a Dad/Kid Questionnaire that encouraged the parents and children to interact with one another. Mission Viejo staff members and their children were also encouraged to attend the program to community collaboration.



**Dad & Kid Questions**

- **Dad to Kid:** What is something you are grateful for?
- **Dad to Kid:** If you had one day left to live, how would you live it?
- **Kid to Dad:** What is something you are grateful for?
- **Kid to Dad:** What do you think the benefits are of having gratitude?



Participants would meet on the last Thursday of each month over zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Information about the meetings were sent home in the school’s weekly letter to parents and Mr. Kastens also sent out personal emails. The program included a raffle after each meeting to encourage both attendance and activities families could do together at home. Raffle baskets included game and sports themes. The program was evaluated utilizing an end of the year survey. Approximately 80% of participants responded, and 100% wished to have the program resume next year.

COVID-19 posed a challenge for Mission Viejo staff to initiate All Pro Dad; communication was difficult and in-person engagement wasn’t possible. Mr. Kasten’s advice to others wanting to replicate the program would be to advertise and get the word out as much as possible so the program can have a wide variety of participants.

