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Lorain Horizon Science Academy leaders talk with parents

By Jordana Joy

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Every month the Horizon Science Academy at 760 Tower Blvd. in Lorain invites parents with concerns, announcements and for casual conversation with administrators during its Coffee and Conversation with Admin.

Horizon Assistant Principal Jayson Bendik said the school has interacted with parents during recognition breakfasts for about seven years, but recently decided a more intimate environment is best for parents to air concerns and participate in discussion.

“(The breakfasts) became so big, so we couldn’t really have genuine conversations that we could listen to concerns more,” Bendik said. “So, we tried to think of a different way to have more intimate conversations.”

Coffee and Conversations began two years ago allowing parents to sit down with members of the administration to discuss behavioral, academic, transportation, building and food issues.

“It’s really about building that relationship and that partnership with the parents because that cultivates trust,” Bendik said. “The trust translates into their children and their children just become remarkable people through their process here and become better students every day.”

Parents of middle school students were invited to a Jan. 18 conversation where transportation, lunches and college opportunities were the main topics of discussion.

Miosoti Torres, 34, of Lorain, brought up the issue of cold lunches to the administration’s attention.

After taking feedback from student and parent surveys, Horizon recently switched lunch providers for the school, which has resulted in temperature issues.



Parents Miosoti Torres, 34, left, and Elsie Ramos, 33, both of Lorain, chat with assistant principal Jayson Bendik during a Coffee and Conversation with administration at Horizon Science Academy, 760 Tower Blvd. in Lorain.

“I think the food is much better than it was,” Torres said. “(My children) like it; they’re just concerned more with the coldness.”

Bendik said the school provides students the opportunity to present data and requests to the food providers and any concerns about food quality is directly sent from the administration to the provider.

“This might even be helpful, too, if I brought you in with the kids to speak to (Innovative Foods), because then when they hear it from you, it’s real,” Bendik said.

Additionally, Torres said her children feel rushed to eat breakfast because their bus will roll in 20 to 30 minutes late when driven by a substitute driver.

“When you have a substitute and

everything, it’s like 20 minutes late,” she said. “They’re supposed to be picked up at 7:28 (a.m.), sometimes it’s 7:35, 7:40, 7:45.”

All in all, however, both Torres and parents Elsie Ramos, 33, also of Lorain, believe Horizon is best the option outside of public school.

“The teachers, they really love the kids,” Ramos said. “They worry about if they’re having trouble, and communication is really good with the parents.”

Torres said with her family looking to move elsewhere in Lorain, her children are pushing that they stay close to Horizon.

“They’re like ‘Mom, we need to be close to the school because I don’t want to change my school,’” she said. “They want to finish here.”