

Title I Family Engagement Policy

Herndon Elementary School

Fairfax County Public Schools' Title I program is established to improve student achievement and help all students meet the objectives of the Fairfax County Program of Studies and the Virginia Standards of Learning. To assure that this goal is met, a partnership with families is essential. Therefore, Herndon Elementary School commits to work in partnership with families in the following ways:

Welcoming All Families

- Welcome and respect the cultural richness, which all families bring to our community.
- Provide staff and resources to support parent involvement, including parent liaisons.
- Signs in multiple languages
- Staff Bus Tour to welcome families and acquaint teachers with our neighborhoods
- Welcome Coffee with Kindergarten, Spanish Immersion and French Immersion Principal Chats
- PTA Back to School Picnic to welcome families (multiple food trucks)
- Principal and Teacher Welcome Letters to families
- Parent Liaison available at Open House, Back to School Night, and other school events
- Offering translation services including headphone systems

Effective Communication

- Provide information in families' home languages whenever possible.
- Communicate with families on a regular basis regarding their child's progress in school through conferences, phone calls, text, interim reports, and written messages in a language that parents can understand.
- Use the following services to support family communication and connections: KIT messages, translation/interpretation, Facebook, translated newsletters, Blackboard
- Principal and Teacher Welcome Letters to families
- Offering translation services including headphone systems
- Include transportation service for families to attend evening events
- Parent Liaison available to contact families and offer support between classroom and home
- PBIS Behavior Calendars to communicate classroom behavior, offered in English and Spanish

Volunteering

- Parents volunteer opportunities to include classroom helpers, field trip chaperones, STEM Lab, and cafeteria
- Strong partnership with high school students who assist with Saturday EXCEL School and Readers are Leaders Program
- Career Day volunteers to speak to students about their profession

- Participate in LINK, a Christian based community food service program

- Parents and students participate in International Night by bringing ethnic foods, dressing in cultural attire, and setting up cultural exhibits and activities
- Guest speaking opportunities at GEMS
- Community volunteer opportunities with the Parent Resource Fair
- Coach families to help with student learning during, Family Literacy Classes, Partners In Print, Junior Great Books, and Kindergarten Readiness meetings

Supporting Student Success (Learning at Home: Parenting)

- Provide school performance profile information, the state assessment program, and individual student assessment results to parents.
- Conduct workshops at a variety of times to provide assistance to all families in supporting their child's academic achievement, such as: Partners in Print, Family Literacy Programs, Kindergarten Orientation and Open House, Advanced Academics Parent Information Night, and other curriculum nights; including SOL information and the four content area information.
- Counseling programs available during school for students involved in life altering events or experiences such as death, divorce, loss of a pet.
- Child care and snacks will be made available during various family engagement events, including Family Partnership Trainings and Curriculum Night.
- Convene an annual meeting early in the school year to inform parents about the Title I program and *The No Child Left Behind Law* and their right to be involved in the planning and implementation of the Title I program.
- Offered Bridge to K summer program to prepare rising Kindergarteners for the routines and procedures of the school day.
- Career Day to expose students to a variety of future professional opportunities
- Family Field Trip events to expose students and their families to local area museums and exhibits
- Invited students attend a Saturday tutoring program where students work 1 on 1 with high school volunteers
- Saturday morning GEMS (Girls Excelling in Math and Science) club
- Evening events to support French and Spanish immersion programs
- Parent Resource Fair offered to provide resource for community
- Working with Kids are First to supply free school supplies to students in FARMS
- Backpack Weekend Food Program (Food for Others)

Decision Making/Advocacy

- Develop, in consultation with families, a School-Home Compact, stating what each party will do to share the responsibility for high student performance. Review the compact annually with families and school staff.
- Families participate in roundtable discussions and community meetings
- Encourage parents and teachers to join and participate in the PTA
- Parental selection of school-wide assemblies

- Collaborate with PTA

- Participation on the School Improvement Plan committee
- Opportunities for DAC rep to share learning/resources
- Parent Liaison advocate for immersion programs
- Community advisory committees

Collaborating with the Community

- Community partnership with Trinity Presbyterian Church to provide mentors, tutors, and volunteers as well as participation in clothing and food drives
- Monthly Spirit Nights with various vendors in the community
- Guest speaker for GEMS
- Backpack Weekend Food Program (Food for Others)

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