Parent Involvement Policy

The School recognizes that the involvement of parents (hereinafter including guardians/caretakers/foster caregivers) and families in their children's education is critical to students' success. In order to accomplish the goal of welcoming, encouraging, and promoting parental/family involvement, the School shall:

1. Create a welcoming school climate.

    - Provide a welcome packet for all parents visiting the school, including important school contact information, school calendar and information about the vision and mission of the school.
    - Have teachers make personal contacts with families through e-mail, phone calls or home visits.
    - Hold an open house, prior to school opening, at which families can meet their children's teachers, tour the school building and meet other families.

2. Provide families information related to child development and creating supportive learning environments.

    - Provide information for parents on typical development and appropriate parent and school expectations for various age groups.
    - Print suggestions for parents on home conditions and activities that support learning at each grade level.
    - Partner with local agencies to provide resources to families.

3. Establish effective school-to-home and home-to-school communication.

    - Provide information for parents on homework policies and on monitoring and supporting student work at home.
    - Send home student work for parent review and comment.
    - Allow access so families can frequently monitor their children's progress.
    - Clearly communicate school policies to all families.
    - Establish formal mechanisms for families to communicate to administrators and teachers as needed (e.g., phone numbers, e-mail addresses, weekly hours for families to call or meet).
    - Create a "suggestion or comment" box (electronic or onsite) for families to anonymously provide their questions, concerns and recommendations.

4. Strengthen families' knowledge and skills to support and extend their children's learning at home and in the community.

    - Provide training and materials for parents on how to improve children's study skills or learning in various academic subjects.
    - Make regular homework assignments that require students to discuss with their families what they are learning in class.

- Provide information on community resources and activities that link to student learning skills and talents, including summer programs for students.
- Inform families of the high expectations and standards children are expected to meet in each grade level. Provide ways for families to support the expectations and learning at home.
- Engage families in opportunities to work with their children in setting their annual academic and career goals.

5. Engage families in school planning, leadership and meaningful volunteer opportunities.

- Invite parents to be involved at the School, including Title One planning.
- Identify family volunteer interests, talents and availability, matching these resources to school programs and staff-support needs.
  (Recurring volunteers will be required to comply with background check policies of the School.)
- Create volunteer recognition activities such as events, certificates and thank-you cards.
- Host events which encourage interaction among parents.

6. Connect students and families to community resources that strengthen and support students' learning and well-being.

- Through school-community partnerships, facilitate families' access to community-based programs (e.g., health care and human services) to ensure that families have resources to be involved in their children's education.
- Establish school-business partnerships to provide students mentoring, internships and onsite, experiential learning opportunities.
- Connect students and families to service-learning projects in the community.
- Invite community partners to share resources at annual open houses or parent-teacher conferences.