

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY East Middle School School Year 2020-2021

East Middle School is committed to the belief that all children can learn and acknowledges that parents share in the success of their children. We believe that working together, as a team, is the key to our success at East. Parents, teachers, and administrators are encouraged to keep the lines of communication open between the home and school. We ensure you that all school related information will be sent home in a timely manner in a language that is understood by our families. We strongly believe that a child's education is a shared responsibility between the home and the school. Parents are encouraged to call, email, or write notes to teachers if there are any questions or concerns throughout the school year. Interpreters are available, upon request, to meet with you and your child's teacher(s). We view parents as important decision makers in the academic lives of their children. Middle school students are at a particularly unique stage in their development and communication between the home and school is crucial. To this end, East Middle School parents, staff, and students meet jointly to develop our School Wide Family Engagement Policy and Compact in the fall of each school year. Relevant workshops, programs, and activities will be offered to our East parents throughout the school year. Meetings will be held at rotating times throughout the year to ensure that all parents have a chance to attend. Numerous surveys will be utilized throughout the school year to obtain valuable input from parents. Please utilize these surveys to indicate what time of day is best for you to attend meetings. We encourage all of our parents to take part in what our school has to offer. Parents are equal partners and we value their input.

The Parent Involvement Program will include a school-parent compact and support the development, implementation, and regular evaluation of the parent involvement program by parents.

___ The *Family Engagement Policy* will be distributed to all families annually in the fall. It will be sent home with students. Additionally, the policy will be distributed to all new families upon enrollment throughout the school year, as well as being posted on East's website.

___ Title I/PTO meetings for all parents will be held throughout the school year detailing the requirements of the Title programs as well as the rights of parents, current curriculum and assessments, and a detailed description of the state's content standards. (pde.state.pa.us)

___ Title I funds have been set aside to help facilitate a wide range of family engagement activities and a Parent Resource Rooms has been developed with parents, staff and students to encourage parents to work with their children, monitor their grades and meet with teachers on an on-going basis.

___ Parent/Guardian meetings, conferences, and events are offered throughout the year and at various times of day to best accommodate parents' schedules. Family nights will provide materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve academic achievement and will be funded by Title I funds.

___ Parents/Guardians are informed annually of the *School-wide* requirements and guidelines, as well as expected academic proficiency levels and individual student assessment results (including state assessments). Communication regarding *School-wide* guidelines occurs through family events, parent-teacher conferences, resources sent home, and the school/district website. Information regarding student academic performance and proficiency levels occurs during parent-teacher conferences.

Timely responses are provided to all questions and suggestions. Families are invited and encouraged to participate in the education of their child through participation in *Family Engagement & activities*.

___ The *School-wide Parent/Guardian Compact* commits parents/guardians, staff, and students to share the responsibility for improved student achievement. The compact outlines the responsibilities so that the parent/guardian, school staff, and student can work together to help children achieve high academic standards. It is reviewed in September by parents and teachers and updated each school year based on input, then distributed to all families again in the fall.

___ East provides many opportunities for families to develop home/school partnerships in order to promote the education of their students. Families are provided with support to monitor their student's progress. Student progress is monitored by report cards, assessment data, parent/guardian-teacher conferences, parent portal, Infinite Campus and home/school communications. Families are encouraged to participate and observe reading growth by reading with their child every day. Our school provides assistance to families on how they can participate in decisions related to their student's education.

___ East parents are involved in the revising and editing of the school's Schoolwide Program Plan. All parents are welcome to attend Meet and Greet in the fall and the plan is reviewed and discussed at the Fall Title I Meeting.

___ We encourage parents/guardians to participate in the *School-wide Parent Advisory Committee*. This committee meets annually to determine both the effectiveness and the barriers of parent/guardian participation. These evaluation findings, along with parent/guardian surveys, will be utilized to design the following year's program, and the results will be shared with all East Middle School families.

___ All parents will be invited to help create, review, and provide feedback for the improvement of the school's Title I program at the end of the school year by completing a "Needs Assessment Survey". This survey will also allow parents to provide feedback on family engagement activities and make suggestions to help guide staff professional development for the upcoming school year.

___ All parent meetings are advertised via One Call, Facebook, and paper invitations are sent home in student folders.

At East School, we will ensure the implementation of effective instructional practices across all classrooms through professional development, differentiating instruction, and flexible grouping.