



# TRANSFORMING OUR ROLES AS CO-EDUCATORS

A parents guide to meaningful engagement  
Workshop Two

# Working together: Home, School, and Community

Families, communities, and schools working together will ensure quality experiences for our students. As part of school improvement plans, there are a full slate of parent and community activities planned to address the needs and concerns of our biggest supporters.

We encourage you to be involved with our school,  
**Contact your school today!**

# Parent Involvement Policy

**Become involved in the joint development, review and improvement of school parental involvement plan by:**

- *Become part of the School Improvement Team*
- *Become part of the School Centered Decision Making Team*
- *Become part of the District's Parent Involvement Council*
  - *School parental involvement policy are available for parents to review in the main office.*

# Parent Involvement Policy

Become involved in the process of school development, review and improvement of the school/parent compact by.

- Become part of the School Improvement Team
- *Become part of the School Centered Decision Making Team*
  - ▣ *Compact is made available at all parent/students events and parent conferences*
  - ▣ *Compact is be posted in all classrooms and made available for parents to review in main office*
  - ▣ *Compact is be printed in the Student Handbook*

# Parent Involvement Policy

Annual meetings are held to inform parents of the school's participation in Title I program and to explain the Title I requirements and the right of parents to be involved. The school invites all parents to this meeting and encourages them to attend through:

- ▣ *Translators*
- ▣ *School Newsletter*
- ▣ *Additional Meetings:*
  - *Back to School Night*
  - *Math Night W*
  - *ASL Information Night*
  - *Literacy Night*
- ▣ *Meeting will convene at a time convenient for parents and will offer a flexible number of additional parental involvement meetings*



# Parent Involvement Policy

Attend the following events at your school. Your school will provide in a timely manner information about Title I programs including description & an explanation of the school's curriculum, the forms of academic assessment used to measure your children's progress, & the proficiency level students are expected to meet through these events.

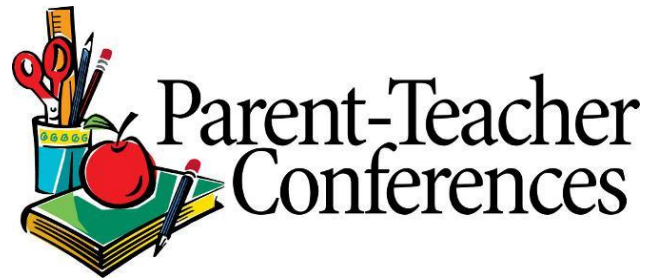
- ▣ *Back to School Night*
- ▣ *Math Night*
- ▣ *WASL Information Night*
- ▣ *Literacy Night*
- ▣ *Parent Workshops*
- ▣ *Program Nights*



# Parent Involvement Policy

At your request schools will provide opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions about the education of your children. Use the following avenues to request information.

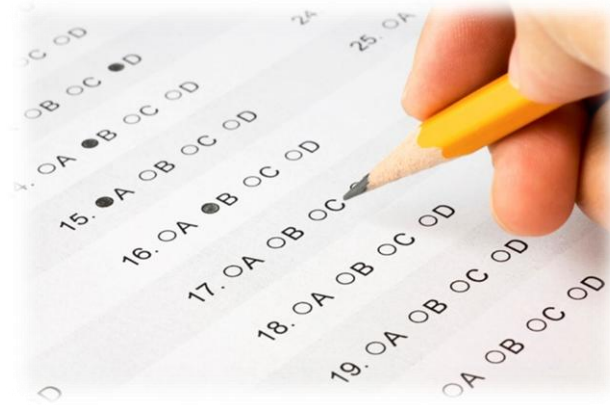
- ▣ *Individual requests through principal/counselors/teachers*
- ▣ *Attend community connections meetings*
- ▣ *Serve on school decision-making committees*
- ▣ *Parent/Teacher Conferences*



# Parent Involvement Policy

Obtain individual student reports about the performance of your child on State assessment in at least math, language arts and reading through:

- *Parent/Teacher Conferences*
- *WASL Information Nights*
- *Individual requests to counselors*



# Parent Involvement Policy

Materials and training to help you work with your children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training & using technology, as appropriate, & ways you may be more effectively involved, to foster parental engagement are available through the following ways:

- ▣ *Math Nights*
- ▣ *Literacy Night*
- ▣ *WASL Information Night*
- ▣ *Parent Involvement Coordinator*



# Parent Involvement Policy

Jason Lee Middle School will, with the assistance of its parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff in how to reach out to, communicate with, & work with parents as equal partners in the value and utility of contributions of parents, & in how to implement & coordinate parent programs & build ties between parents & schools, by:


- ▣ *Partnering with the District's School/Family/Community Partnership Program*



# Parent Involvement Policy

Use the following strategies to obtain information related to the school & parent-programs, meetings and other activities is communicated to parents. Alternative formats are available upon request in a language parents can understand:

- ▣ *School Newsletter*
- ▣ *School Calendar*
- ▣ *School Website*
- ▣ *Student Handbook*
- ▣ *Individual phone call from staff and volunteers*



# Workbook...Example of Parental Involvement Policy

# Parent Teachers Association (PTA)

- National PTA® comprises millions of families, students, teachers, administrators, and business and community leaders devoted to the educational success of children and the promotion of parent involvement in schools.
- Reregistered 501(c)(3) nonprofit association that prides itself on being a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for families and communities, and a strong advocate for public education. Membership in PTA is open to anyone who wants to be involved and make a difference for the education, health, and welfare of children and youth.

The overall purpose of PTA is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

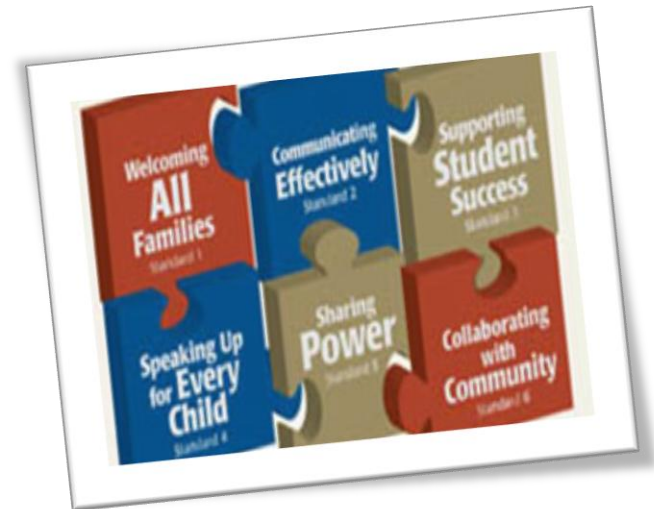
## PTA Values

- **Collaboration:** We work in partnership with a wide array of individuals and organizations to accomplish our agreed-upon goals.
- **Commitment:** We are dedicated to promoting children's health, well-being, and educational success through strong parent, family, and community involvement.
- **Accountability:** We acknowledge our obligations. We deliver on our promises.
- **Respect:** We value our colleagues and ourselves. We expect the same high quality of effort and thought from ourselves as we do from others.
- **Inclusivity:** We invite the stranger and welcome the newcomer. We value and seek input from as wide a spectrum of viewpoints and experiences as possible.
- **Integrity:** We act consistently with our beliefs. When we err, we acknowledge the mistake and seek to make amends.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_detailpage&v=ZcPILnN9TJk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=ZcPILnN9TJk)

# PTA's National Standards for Family-School Partnerships

- **Standard 1:** *Welcoming all families* into the school community—Families are active participants in the life of the school, and feel welcomed, valued, and connected to each other, to school staff, and to what students are learning and doing in class.
- **Standard 2:** *Communicating effectively*—Families and school staff engage in regular, two-way, meaningful communication about student learning.
- **Standard 3:** *Supporting student success*—Families and school staff continuously collaborate to support students' learning and healthy development both at home and at school, and have regular opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and skills to do so effectively.
- **Standard 4:** *Speaking up for every child*—Families are empowered to be advocates for their own and other children, to ensure that students are treated fairly and have access to learning opportunities that will support their success.
- **Standard 5:** *Sharing power*—Families and school staff are equal partners in decisions that affect children and families and together inform, influence, and create policies, practices, and programs.
- **Standard 6:** *Collaborating with community*—Families and school staff collaborate with community members to connect students, families, and staff to expanded learning opportunities, community services, and civic participation.



# Communication

- Communication is an essential aspect to connecting home and school and is necessary for your students' success.
- Research shows that the more parents and teachers share relevant information with each other about a student, the better equipped both will be to help that student achieve academically.



# Communication

- **Communication** from your child's school is used to share information to parents, students and community
  - School Newsletters
  - School Calendar
  - School Website
  - Student Handbook



# Parent-Teacher Communication



- ❑ Parents may feel nervous when meeting with their child's teacher.
- ❑ Come prepared to help minimize your anxiety.
- ❑ Don't feel shy about pulling out an index card or bringing your workbook with a listing of your concerns.
  - ❑ "I wrote down some of the things I wanted to talk about. I just wanted to be sure that I covered everything I wanted to ask."
- ❑ Your list should not necessarily include all of your concerns in paragraph or even sentence form. A numbered or bulleted list will be fine.

# Talking with your child's teacher

- **Discuss what matters most**
  - Your teacher wants to know about how best to teach your child, so share what your child loves to learn about as well as any struggles he may have.
  - Ask how your child functions in the classroom as a person. Does he make friends? How does he resolve conflicts?"
- **Supply data**
  - You might say, "Last year, Johnny's teacher noted he was struggling with attention issues. He was tested and this is how we are handling it."
  - Or you might explain, "Betsy was put in a special reading group last year by Mr. Miller because he evaluated her and thought she needed more advanced books."
- **Accept your differences with your teacher**
  - Recognize that your teacher may have a different style from you, but that doesn't make her a bad teacher.
- **Ask what you can do to help.**
  - When discussing a problem your child may have, ask your teacher for specific ways you can help at home.
  - Ask her to define what your role should be in the problem-solving partnership, making sure the teacher, parent, and child all play important roles.

# Parent-Teacher Communication



## Be Prepared to Brainstorm

- You are meeting with the teacher maybe because your child has problems with his/her behavior, academics, social skills, or some other issue, and perhaps in more than one of these areas.
- **Brainstorming** allows both you and your child's teacher the opportunity to generate creative and imaginative solutions to his challenges.
- Be **creative** when traditional solutions don't work.
  - ▣ You and the teacher can work together to try and find solutions that will help your child in the classroom and at home.



Workbook.....Come prepared

# Talking with your child's teacher

- Find the **right time** to speak to the teacher
  - Always ask the teacher if she has time to talk at that moment, or better yet, when it might be convenient for her to do so.
  - Write short and effective notes.
  - For quick response, keep your correspondence brief.
  - Be specific about the issue and ask for guidance.
    - “Lucy’s been having trouble with the math homework recently. She struggled for 30 minutes and then we stopped. Can we speak on the phone for a few minutes at your convenience about how to help?”
- Make sure your message gets to the teacher.
  - Handwritten notes, leaving occasional messages on teachers’ voicemail or sending emails are effective ways to communicate.
  - If you don’t hear back after a few days, make sure your teacher got your communication, particularly if you sent it via your child.

# Talking with your child's teacher

- ❑ **Come prepared to conferences.**
- ❑ Make a list in advance of what you want to discuss.
- ❑ Let the teacher know you have some questions and be specific:
  - ❑ Give concrete details that paint an objective picture of a problem. Instead of sweeping comments like
    - “Denzel is having a terrible year,” offer tangible data, like “at least three days a week, Denzel melts down while trying to do his math homework. He says ‘I don’t understand’ and ‘I’m stupid.’”
      - This way you can collaborate with the teacher on solutions.



# Workbook...Parent/Teacher Conference

# Parent-Teacher Communication

- School to Home Notebook
  - ▣ Communication books to share information with parents, specifically used for students with specific learning needs
- Alternate day or twice weekly home notes
  - ▣ Used to engage and update parents on their child's progress
- Report cards
  - ▣ Traditional mode to convey written, evaluative information of student progress.

# Workbook...Know your child's teachers

As your child enters middle school they will go from having one teacher to multiple teachers. This is a unique factor of your transition to middle school. Your child's school schedule is important, it will list all of the classes your child will take during the school year, as well as the teachers assigned to your student. Knowing your child's teacher for each class and how to contact them will be very important use your workbook to keep this information handy.

# Workbook...Know important contact names and number

Not only is it important to know who your child's teacher is and how you can contact them it is also important to know other important contacts and how to contact them. You can keep these in your workbook as well so, they are easily assessable.

- ❑ Main Office
- ❑ Principal
- ❑ Assistant Principal
- ❑ Attendance office
- ❑ Counselor
- ❑ Health office
- ❑ Cafeteria
- ❑ School Psychologist
- ❑ Any extra curricular activities or tutoring

# Attend School Events!

- *Back to School Night*
- *Math Nights*
- *Literacy Night*
- *WASL Information Night*
- *Parent Workshops*
- *Program Nights*
- *Extra-curricular activities*



# Collaborate with Community

Help bring the **community** into your child's school;

- Encourage your school to provide all families with information about **community services and resources**.
- If your school is diverse, find out which community organizations serve diverse cultural groups and help the school connect with them to provide services for families.
- Arrange educational and cultural experiences for your child. Share these opportunities with other families and your child's school.
- Help the school recruit and train community volunteers and mentors from diverse groups.
- **Thank** local merchants and business people who support education and schools.

# Transforming our Roles as Co-Educators:

A parent's guide to meaningful engagement

***Mission:*** Increase student achievement by educating and empowering parents to become actively engaged in their children's education across grade levels.