

Susquehanna Township School District



District Parent Engagement Plan



Purpose

Our Mission: The success of every learner.

Our Vision: World class. Every day. In every way.

The Susquehanna Township School District (STSD) family, which includes faculty, staff, parents, students and our community partners will join together to provide a cooperative learning environment that will enable every student to reach his/her educational and career goals. We believe that planning must begin at birth in order to give students the greatest opportunity for success, and we are committed to supporting families in becoming actively engaged partners in their child's journey. This plan was developed to articulate the importance of parent engagement, identify opportunities for engagement and suggest ways in which parents can access those opportunities.

Research has shown that when schools create a welcoming environment that nurtures family-school relationships, those relationships can transcend languages, cultures and contexts and strengthen long-term partnerships between schools and the families they serve (Ferguson, et. al 2008). Parent involvement has also been shown to increase educational performance, strengthen parent-student-school relationships, create a sense of ownership for student success among parents, improve school attendance, support student emotional development, improve classroom behavior and positively impact outcomes for all stakeholders (Pate & Andrews, 2006). In its article, *Parental Involvement*, the National Middle School Association (2006) identified six primary purposes that parent involvement activities, events, and initiatives serve: 1) parenting, 2) communicating, 3) volunteering, 4) learning at home, 5) decision making and 6) collaborating with the community. We believe that the district's plan addresses each of these focus areas and provides a full continuum of involvement opportunities for families.

Our Commitment

The Susquehanna Township School District will continue to provide a world class parent involvement and engagement plan that will be exemplary among school districts. We will involve parents in the joint development of the district-level Parent Engagement Plan and our review and evaluation processes. A committee comprised of parents, teachers, administrators and community partners will be established to oversee the continuous improvement of the district's Parent Engagement Plan. This annual process will focus on the following key action items:

- STSD will ensure parents are given input into the development of building level Parent Compacts.
- STSD will ensure that parents are given access to a copy of the Parent Engagement Plan (via a hard copy or the district website).
- STSD will collaborate with other preschool and health/human services partners in the development of subsequent plans.
- STSD will provide parents with the opportunity to complete a written survey evaluating our parent engagement efforts.
- During its annual review, STSD will pinpoint barriers to parental participation, identify successful parent engagement strategies and made recommendations for improving parent involvement.

- STSD will work to increase parent involvement and engagement by offering the following programs in order to strengthen the school/family partnership and provide materials and professional development for both staff and parents:
 - **Annual Title I Workshop/Meetings:** This meeting is held at least once a year to provide parents with strategies to help their children be more successful in school.
 - **AP Study Sessions:** Students and Parents will be able to come and receive valuable information on AP Exam schedules how to study etc.
 - **Book Fair:** Scholastic's Book Fair is sponsored by the PTO each year and parents are encouraged to participate in support of literacy across the district.
 - **District Calendar:** the district calendar is sent to all attending families in the district and chronicles all major district events.
 - **Family Literacy Night:** Parents, district staff and community partners provide information and activities that support literacy in the home and emphasize the home-school partnership. In addition, parent-facilitated professional development is provided to relay helpful tips and recommendations for improving the parent-student-school relationship.
 - **Hold Messages:** Educational tips, district announcements, community facts are provided when district calls are placed on hold.
 - **HOPE Teams:** Parent volunteers can serve on any of six (6) district level teams to support the district's journey toward performance excellence.
 - **Open House:** Students and parents are encouraged to attend to meet district and building level staff and discuss a variety of academic and extra-curriculum programming.
 - **Parent Advisory Committee Meetings (PACs):** Parents meet with the building principals to discuss the school year in general and make recommendations for improvements in the subsequent school year.
 - **Parent Presentation Nights:** Parents have the opportunity to learn about various study skills, planning processes for post-secondary options and learn about additional parent engagement opportunities.
 - **Parent/Student Handbooks:** Parents receive the Parent Handbook at the start of each school year. The Student Code of Conduct is contained within the handbook.
 - **Parent/Teacher Conferences:** We hold face-to-face and/or telephone conferences during the day and evening. Phone calls and individual meetings are encouraged. The district's Title I program is explained at this time.
 - **Perfect Attendance Breakfast:** Students who attain perfect attendance for 1st semester with "0" unexcused absences will be invited to a breakfast with a parent in the cafeteria to receive free breakfast buffet, raffle drawings, and a certificate.

- **Principal's Coffee:** Parents have the opportunity to speak with a building administrator in an informal and welcoming setting.
- **Principal Communication:** Each building administrator communicates upcoming events and special announcements through weekly newsletters, Blackboard connect messages, and email communication.
- **Progress Reports:** Parents are granted access to progress reports online at www.hannasd.org Progress reports are distributed four (4) times per year mid-way through each marking period.
- **PTO Events:** Staff Appreciation Luncheons, Holiday Shoppes and Literacy Night activities are among the initiatives provided by the Parent Teacher and Parent/Teacher/Student Organizations.
- **Report Cards:** Report cards are distributed four (4) times per year at the end of each marking period. Report cards will be available in print and online.
- **Superintendent's PAC:** Parents meet with the superintendent monthly to discuss the school year in general and make recommendations for improvements in the subsequent school year.
- **Title I Website:** The district maintains a section of its webpage for the sharing of Title I information and resources.

Parent Engagement Activities 2017 - 2018 School Year

Key
SL/AC: Sara Lindemuth/Anna Carter Primary School
TWH: Thomas W. Holtzman Elementary School
MS: Susquehanna Township Middle School
HS: Susquehanna Township High School

Month	Location	Activity
August	TWH SL/AC MS HS HS	Open House Open House/Back to School Night 6 TH Grade Open House 1:1 Initiative Laptop Handout (First 2 weeks of August) Freshman Open House (Late August)
September	TWH SL/AC SL/AC MS MS HS HS DO	PBIS/MTSS Kickoff Event Pre-School Education Night #1 Grandparents Book Breakfast 7/8 ^{TWH} Grade Open House PTSO Mtg. Open House AP Open House Superintendent's PAC
October	SL/AC SL/AC MS HS DO	Literacy, Math & Science Family Night PTO Fall Family Festival & Book Fair PTSO Mtg. Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) Superintendent's PAC
November	TWH SL/AC SL/AC MS MS MS ALL HS DO DO	Scholastic Book Fair/Family Literacy Night Pre-School Education Night #2 Student Fall Music Programs Principal's Coffee PTSO Mtg. STMS Literacy Night Parent Teacher Conferences Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) Superintendent's PAC Board Presentation: Parent Engagement Plan
December	SL/AC MS MS HS DO	Student Winter Music Programs Winter Music Concerts Spelling Bee Parent Presentation Night Superintendent's PAC

January	SL/AC MS MS HS HS DO	PTO Parent Literacy Night PTSO Mtg. Geography Bee Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) AP Open House Superintendent's PAC
February	TWH SL/AC MS MS MS MS HS DO DO	Scholastic Book Fair/Family Literacy Night Pre-School Education Night #3 Principal's Coffee PTSO Mtg. STMS Science Night Scholastic Book Fair Perfect Attendance with Parents Superintendent's PAC Parent Review of Title I Documents (Pact, Policy, Plan)
March	TWH MS HS DO DO	PSSA Information and Pep Rally PTSO Mtg. Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) Superintendent's PAC Parent Review of Title I Documents (Pact, Policy, Plan)
April	TWH TWH SL/AC SL/AC MS MS MS HS HS DO DO	Dads and Donuts Moms and Muffins Pre-School Education Night #4 Education Fair Principal's Coffee PTSO Mtg. STMS Math Night Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) AP Exam Study Session Superintendent's PAC Parent Review of Title I Documents (Pact, Policy, Plan)
May	Offsite – Baseball Field SL/AC MS HS HS HS HS DO	Summer Learning and Engagement Tips Student Spring Music Programs PTSO Mtg. Senior Class Dads and Doughnuts Senior Class Moms Muffins Perfect Attendance Breakfast (2 nd Offering) 4.0 Luncheon Parent Review of Title I Documents (Pact, Policy, Plan)
June	HS	Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)

References

- Pate, P. E., & Andrews, P. G. (2006). *Research summary: Parent involvement*. Retrieved September 15, 2016 from <http://www.amle.org/TabId/270/ArtMID/888/ArticleID/328/Research-Summary-Parent-Involvement.aspx>.
- Ferguson, C., Ramos, M.A., R. Z., and W.L. (2008). *The School-family connection: Looking at the larger picture: A review of current literature [Scholarly project]*. In National Center for Family and Community Connections with Schools. Retrieved September 15, 2016 from <http://www.sedl.org/connections/resources/sfclitrev.pdf>