

Forest Hill Elementary
Parent And Family Engagement Summary Plan
2020-2021



Forest Hill Elementary recognizes the importance of forming a strong partnership with parents and community members in order to positively impact the students in our school. In order to promote more effective parent involvement, the staff at Forest Hill Elementary welcomes input from parents and community members in decision making and encourages them to join us in the activities outlined in this plan. We work with parents as equal partners in the educational process.

Annual Meeting

At the beginning of each school year, parents are invited to attend an Annual Title I meeting to learn more about the requirements of our school-wide Title I program. At this meeting there are opportunities to review the following:

- School-parent compact
- Title I Family Involvement Policy/Plan
- Parents' Right to know
- Title I budget
- Ideas/topics for future parent involvement activities

Communication with Parents

- A variety of communication methods are used to keep parents informed: a monthly school calendar, newsletter, personal notes, communication folders, agendas, e-mail, phone calls, ParentLink messages, marquee, weblog, and Edline.
- Conferences with parents are used to discuss academic progress and all other aspects of the child's social, cognitive and emotional growth.
- Parents are provided with handbooks (district and school) that include policies and discipline procedures.
- Forest Hill Elementary has Community Language Facilitators (CLFs) and additional staff members that are utilized to provide communication with parents in their heritage language. Forest Hill Elementary currently has a CLF for Spanish and Creole/French.
- Parent volunteer liaisons are utilized to reach out to parents.
- Parents will be invited to "Meet the Teacher" and Parent Teacher Teams (PTT) to learn about classroom policies and procedures.
- Parent Link, an automated telephone system, will be used to notify parents of important events.
- Email messages will be sent to parents via our EDLINE communication system on a monthly basis.
- All stakeholders sign the annual Parent School Compact form.
- School staff receives training on best practices in family involvement during faculty meetings to ensure adequate communication with parents.

Parent Involvement Activities

- The Forest Hill Elementary staff respects parents/guardians as the primary support and most important influence in their child's life.
- The Forest Hill offers opportunities for parents to learn about parenting skills and how to help their child through the guidance counselors and other available resources.
- The Forest Hill guidance counselors are knowledgeable about community resources that are available to assist parents and their families.
- The Parent Leadership Council offers opportunities for parents to participate in parenting workshops and workshops aimed at helping parents assist in building their child's academic and study skills.
- The Parent Power program promotes adult literacy for Spanish speaking parents and their Pre-kindergarten children.
- Family literacy nights will be implemented for parents so that parents will learn strategies to help children at home and increase reading achievement.
- Parent information nights will inform parents about FSA and curriculum strategies to help prepare their children.
- Kindergarten "round up" training will inform parents of the basic requirements of Kindergarten and simple activities that can be utilized to help prepare their children.

Student Learning

- Workshops are provided at Forest Hill to teach parents ways they can assist their child in learning at home.
- The Forest Hill Student Handbook explains the homework policy and expectations for all students.
- Parents are encouraged to review the contents of the Parent/School communication folder or agenda each night to make sure they are aware of current and future assignments.
- Forest Hill shares the School Improvement Plan with parents and informs them of our goal and strategies designed to promote student success.
- Parents have the opportunity to participate in a variety of academic activities with their children (i.e., science/math night, PTT, Literacy Night, etc.).

Volunteering

- Volunteers are recruited and recognized for their valuable service to Forest Hill.
- Forest Hill staff members appreciate the involvement of volunteers and ensure that volunteers are recognized for their contributions.
- All school volunteers utilize the Volunteer in Schools program to sign in and out each day.

- Individuals who volunteer at Forest Hill participate in a volunteer orientation to ensure that they are aware of the school policies and procedures and volunteer opportunities.

Community Collaboration

- Business/Community partnership members are encouraged to serve on the School Advisory Council.
- Business/Community partnerships foster student academic achievement, support, career awareness, and promote awareness of community service.
- Students participate in community service projects throughout the school year.
- Individuals from the school community are invited to participate in school wide events such as career day and the Spring Festival.
- The Forest Hill Elementary School community works with a variety of outside agencies to provide services and support for students and their families.

Shared Decision Making

- Administration promotes and supports our Parent Teacher Organization.
- Parents are involved in the process of evaluating the School Improvement Plan through participation in our School Advisory Council.
- The Parent Teacher Organization works with the school community to assess needs and provide support wherever needed.
- Administration shares information with and seeks feedback from the community at School Advisory Council meetings and PTO meetings.
- The guidance Advisory Council shares and seeks input from all stakeholders at monthly School Advisory Council Meetings.

Accessibility for All Families

- Choices of meeting dates and times based on input from parents
- Interpreters
- Translated documents
- Childcare at the school
- Food/refreshments