

MONTAGUE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

“HOME OF THE EAGLES”



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Family Engagement Plan for High Quality Pre-Kindergarten

A) Family to Family Support:

Montague ISD strives to create a safe and welcoming atmosphere for all families. Families are invited into the building with a welcoming smile and greetings from the superintendent who stands at the door during morning hours before school begins and the principal who welcomes students into the gym to wait for school to begin. Parents are invited to walk their student in and stay for school-wide morning announcements, the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. Student achievements are also highlighted during this time. This creates an atmosphere of knowledge of upcoming events for parents, students and faculty and a sense of teamwork, support and pride in our school.

Parents are invited to eat lunch or breakfast at any time during the school year with their children. They are also invited to share with the classroom anything that pertains to current instructional lessons. Parents are sent home yearly surveys on the climate and culture of the school. Suggestions from surveys are used to facilitate more parent involvement. Monthly school-wide calendars are sent home with upcoming events, as well as classroom calendars sent home daily with Pre-Kindergarten students in their folders where parents are required to sign showing they saw the folder every day. This folder also shows student behavior during that school day positive and negative. These calendars are both sent home to inform parents of upcoming events and opportunities to become active and support their child's education. Teachers and staff members encourage parents to participate in a variety of activities to foster confidence and independence in their abilities to plan and deliver appropriate learning experiences for their children.

B) Network of Community Resources

The student handbook and code of conduct is made available on the school website for parents at the beginning of the school year. They are both updated yearly and provides each faculty member's conference hours as well as email address. A "Meet the Teacher" event is held annually the Thursday before school begins. This event is publicized in local newspapers, through the school text messaging service, on the school's website and Facebook page, on the digital school sign and sent home in welcome letters by various teachers. Every resource available is used to ensure parents are present at this event. During this event: school procedures, processes and rules are addressed, PTO and Girl Scouts set up booths for registration, registration packets are sent home with parents and students can meet their teacher in their classroom and bring school supplies and backpacks. If there is a language barrier, every effort is made to accommodate. Notes and announcements are sent home in their language and a translator is available if needed. During time spent in the pre-kindergarten classroom, the 10 domains and pre-k guidelines as well as child development expectations are shared with parents and students.

MISD partners with the Montague County Child Welfare Board to provide on-site counselors if the need arises. The Wichita Falls Food Bank also provides weekly sacks of food to students in need that qualify. Montague has a local food bank that is also a good resource for families in need and the school does a yearly food drive to help with this community resource. A local church takes students that qualify to Wal-Mart and buys clothes and shoes yearly as well as buying Christmas presents for students. Every effort is made by the school district for students to have all of the resources they need at home as well as at school to aide in their education. A local church also donates school supplies and backpacks at the beginning of the school year.

C) Participate in Decision Making

MISD involves parents in program decision making to support all areas of their child's development. Parents are encouraged to serve on a variety of committees such as the Student Health Advisory Committee, the District and Campus Improvement Teams as well as the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). Committee members are asked to participate in the programs' self-assessment, help develop the annual program improvement plans and provide parent input.

Parents are invited to support and participate in the educational goals for their child within the classroom. Ongoing communication occurs as teachers have daily conversations with parents during pick-up and drop-off times, through daily home to school communication folders via text messaging system and parent/teacher conferences. The goal of all parent communication is to involve families in the planning and support of individualized goals for their child.

D) Equip Families with Tools to Enhance Learning:

MISD believes the approach to fostering family engagement is the belief that families are their child's first and most important teacher. This message is delivered to our families through the school year from open house to the Fanny the Frog home visits and ongoing parent/student events. Families are welcomed into MISD to observe, meet the teachers and staff and to volunteer.

During parent conferences, teachers share CLI Engage assessment results with parents along with an individualized plan to support their child in an all areas of learning to ensure school readiness. The value of reading with their child is discussed, parents are encouraged to read to their child and are invited to go with their child in the mornings before school starts to the library to pick books out and assist in the Accelerated Reading Program testing for students. This is a supplemental reading curriculum program used with a reward system to help students foster a love for reading. A Fall and Spring Book Fair is held with each corresponding with an open house and "Family Night at the Book Fair" event.

Opportunities are made available for parents to enhance their skills and knowledge on age appropriate techniques through ongoing conversations and meetings. The monthly school calendar that is sent home also contains a Home & School Connection newsletter that gives parents suggestions on how to help their child at home. This allows parents and the school to work together for school success.

Effectively preparing families for a successful transition into Kindergarten begins with a

focus on school readiness as teachers discuss each child's developmental progress in becoming ready for Kindergarten. The communication of necessary skills and child progress is discussed with families during each parent conference. A pre-kindergarten registration event is held yearly where parents and students are invited to meet the teacher, register and tour the school and their classroom for the upcoming school year. The seamless transition of enrollment is provided for all MISD students.

E) Evidence Based Practices

MISD staff are trained annually in effective practice for building relationships with families as well as recognizing and respecting diversity. Safe school training are offered yearly to all staff on the following topics: classroom safety, sexual harassment, blood borne pathogens exposure prevention, child abuse and reporting, youth suicide prevention and awareness, and bullying recognition and response. A yearly family engagement and diversity training is also offered.

F) Family Engagement Events

MISD offers a variety of family engagement events. These events are well published to ensure maximum parent participation:

Meet the Teacher, two yearly book fairs with family nights, games with grandparents afternoon, 6 weeks awards ceremonies parents are invited to attend, required parent conferences two times per year, Fall Festival, Thanksgiving Feast with families, each class has several field trips per year that parents are invited to attend, Christmas Program, Christmas, Valentine's and Easter class parties parents coordinate and attend, Veteran's Day Assembly for the community and Pre-K sings a song, 50th and 100th day of school activities parents are invited to participate in at school and at home with their child, Bike-a-thon and luncheon for students and parents, PTO organization that coordinates various school events, Pre-Kindergarten registration and tours, Field day and luncheon where parents are invited, talent show, muffins with moms and dads with donuts events.

G) Evaluate Family Engagement

All families who attend parent engagement events sign in so that we can document and track attendance. Participation in these events, as well as completion of home to school activities are tracked for each classroom on a monthly basis. Teachers analyze this data to assist in involvement practices. All data gathered is used to track family involvement and determine trends in involvement as it relates to student levels of school readiness and guide planning for future events.