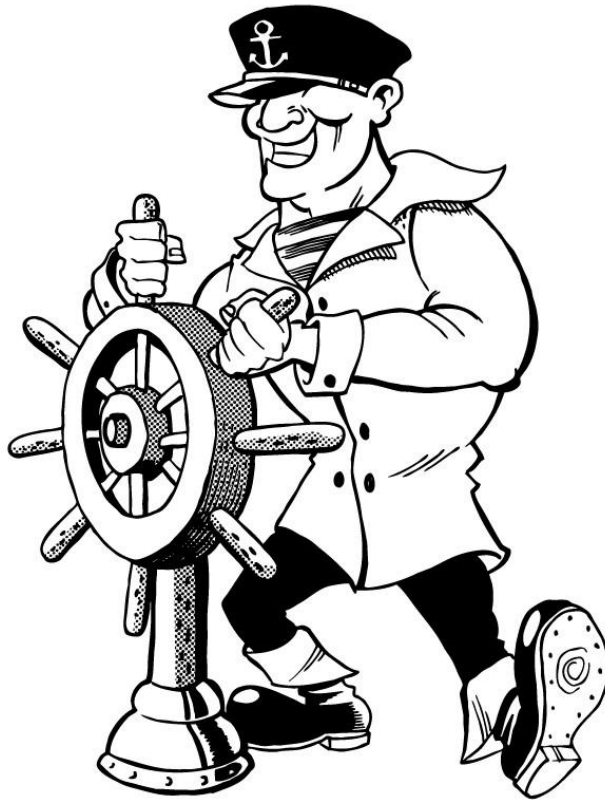


Mathias Elementary School

2023-2024



Charting the Course for the Future...
Where ALL belong, ALL learn, and ALL succeed.

Mathias Elementary

1609 N 24th Street Rogers, AR 72756

Ph: (479)631-3530 Fax: (479)202-9098

<http://www.rogersschools.net>

Student Handbook

Scan this QR code for a PDF version of our
Student Handbook





Dear Parent:

In December 2015, former President Barack Obama signed the Every Student Succeeds Act into law. Parents continue to have the same rights as they did under “No Child Left Behind”. Under ESSA, parents have a right to know the professional qualifications of their children’s teachers(s). This letter is to inform you of your right to ask for the following information about each of your child’s classroom teachers:

- Whether the state of Arkansas has licensed or qualified the teacher for the grades and subjects he or she teaches (Note: We are also required to send a notice to parents affected if the teacher is not fully licensed, so if you haven’t received such notice, your child’s teacher(s) is/are fully licensed.)
- Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency permit or other provisional status through which state licensing criteria have been waived.
- The teacher’s college major, whether the teacher has any advanced degrees, and, if so, the subject of the degrees.
- If any time your student has been taught for four (4) or more consecutive weeks by a teacher(s) that is not highly qualified, then you will be notified by the school.

You also have the right to request information regarding the qualifications of the paraprofessional(s) assisting your child’s teacher(s). If your child is receiving Title I, Part A services from a paraprofessional, then our district or school is able to provide you with the following information:

1. Whether the paraprofessional has completed at least two years of study at an institution of higher education.
2. Whether the paraprofessional has completed an associate’s degree (or higher).
3. Whether the paraprofessional has met a rigorous standard of quality through our state’s certification procedure for determining the quality of paraprofessional staff.
4. Whether the paraprofessional has: (a) the knowledge of and ability to assist in instructing reading, writing, and mathematics or (b) the knowledge of and the ability to assist in learning activities, such as homework, reading readiness, writing, mathematics, and other support as appropriate.

If you would like to receive specific information about your child’s teacher or paraprofessional, please visit our office at 500 West Walnut Street to fill out a Parent Request Form. A response will be mailed to you within ten working days from the date of the request. Our office is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Our district is fully committed to the success of your child. We appreciate your partnership in our efforts.

Sincerely,
Dr. Roger Hill
Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources

Parent Friendly Summary of the Mathias Parent and Family Engagement Plan

Mathias Elementary recognizes the value of a strong home/school connection. Families, administrators, teachers, and support staff must work together as a team to support high standards for all students. The Mathias Parent and Family Engagement Plan addresses the ways in which the school and the home can work together to meet the specific academic needs of our students. This plan is available to all parents including those with limited English proficiency. Copies are available in welcome packets, through the school office, or on the district's website at www.rogersschools.net.

Parent and Family Engagement Plan

1. Jointly Developed

Mathias Elementary recognizes the necessity and value of a strong home/school connection. Families, administrators, teachers, and support staff must work together as a team to support high standards and specific academic improvement needs for all students. Our Parent and Family Engagement Plan is comprehensive and coordinated in nature. The program involves parents at all grade levels in a variety of roles that addresses the needs of the students and families. Mathias Elementary School and parents jointly developed this written school Parent and Family Engagement policy that describes how the school will carry out the Parent and Family Engagement requirements, including the development of a school-parent compact.

The school endeavors to meet the diverse cultural and language needs of parents and children. Meetings are offered at flexible times such as in the morning or the evening. Information is shared in a timely manner and to the extent possible in a language the family can understand concerning curriculum descriptions and explanation, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet, and opportunities for regular meetings at which parents can suggest and participate in the decisions relating to their child's education.

2. Communication

The Mathias Parent and Family Engagement Committee and Mathias Elementary Staff believe that in order for parent/teacher communication to be beneficial, it should be open and two-way. Mathias Elementary's Parent and Family Engagement Plan will be made available on the school website and distributed in September 2022. Topics included in the packet will include a description of the engagement program, recommended roles for parents, students, teachers, and the school, ways for a family to get involved, a survey regarding volunteer interests related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities will be provided, to the extent possible, in a language and format that the parent can understand, via informational packet and summary.

Other forms of communication available to Mathias parents include but are not limited to : Classroom Newsletters, School Newsletters, Website, Mathias Parent and Family Engagement Plan, Mathias Student Handbook, Announcements, Marquee, ParentLink Automated Phone Messaging System, and CHART Nightly/Weekly Notebooks.

Additionally, we will offer meetings at a variety of times and in different formats. Parents are encouraged to call the school to speak with their child's teacher should they have any questions or concerns. Parents are also welcomed to set up a time for a conference at which teachers can give their undivided attention to the parent's concerns and questions. Phone and e-mail contact information is located at the back of the Parent and Family Engagement Plan. Parent/Teacher Conferences are offered twice during each school year. During these conferences, teachers will share information concerning each child's progress towards meeting the State's high academic standards and address any specific academic needs their child may have. Assessments to measure progress and the level at which proficiency is expected will also be shared during this meeting. Intensive Reading Improvement Plans will be addressed as needed. These conferences are offered at flexible times in order to accommodate as many parents as possible.

3. Building Staff Capacity

An important requirement of the Parent and Family Engagement Plan includes the component of continued staff development in the area of Parent and Family Engagement. Annual training will be held with topics such as the value and utility of contributions of parents, how to implement and coordinate parents programs and build ties between home and the school, how to respond to parent requests for parents and family engagement activities, that parents play an integral role in assisting student learning, how to welcome parents into the school and seek parental support and assistance and the school's process for resolving parent concerns. It is the goal of the Mathias Parent and Family Engagement Committee for professional development to provide staff with the necessary skills needed to partner with all parents in order to assure each child's academic success.

4. Building Parent Capacity

Another requirement of the Parent and Family Engagement Plan is that each school hold an annual Title 1 meeting for parents. The Mathias Annual Title 1 Meeting, Open House, is held in the fall of each school year. The school principal and PTO President speak during the welcoming session. Teacher sessions allow teachers the opportunity to present parent information. The topics of the Title I Annual Meeting include, but are not limited to, the following: (as required by Act 307 of 2007) what students will be learning (Quarterly Expectations, Standards Based Report Card, Power Standards), how students will be assessed both at the state and local level, the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards students are expected to meet (as required by ESSA 1116©(4)(B)), what parents should expect for their child's education, and ways parents can assist in their child's education, (as required by Act 397 of 2009).

During parent teacher conferences and math/literacy night, teachers go over several ways that parents can build their capacity to play a role in their children's academic success. These include a description and explanation of the curriculum used that school year, the forms of State and Local academic assessments used to measure student progress, including alternate assessments, achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards students are expected to meet, and how to work with educators to improve the achievement of their children. They also use this time to help parents in technology and literacy training.

Mathias provides opportunities for parents of students at all grade levels to become involved in a variety of roles such as, but not limited to, becoming a homeroom parent, chaperoning field trips, being part of the PTA, involvement in their child's education, learning activities and support classroom instruction, participation in School decisions, collaboration with the community, development of School goals and priorities, evaluating the effectiveness of the School-level Improvement Plan, [A.C.A. § 6-15-1702(b)(1); ADE Rules Governing Parental Involvement Section 3.03]

As funds are available, Mathias will promote and support responsible parenting. Mathias will purchase parenting books, magazines, and other informative material regarding responsible parenting through the school library, advertise the current selection, and give parents an opportunity to borrow the materials for review. Another resource available to parents is the Mathias Family Resource Center. We have instructional materials designed to assist parents in working with their child at home. We also have a large selection of informational materials concerning common developmental topics and other programs available to Mathias parents such as Head Start and HIPPY. Pamphlets and other informational fliers are available in the office. Please feel free to visit this collection for helpful information. Our parent facilitator, Kim Dixon, will be available to help you in any way necessary. You are welcome to contact her at the school by calling 479-631-3530 or via e-mail at kim.dixon@rpsar.net. Parent Training Nights are another means by which parents can be active in their child's education. These trainings are offered by a variety of resources including: Grade Level Parent Nights with a focus on Literacy and/or Math, Open House, and Orientations. The Rogers School District also offers opportunities through the REACH Department, English as a Second Language Department, and the Special Education Department. There are several community groups that offer a variety of parent information including Jones Center, Center for Effective Parenting, Local Support Groups, and Northwest Arkansas Community College.

Mathias will provide instruction to parents on how to incorporate developmentally appropriate learning activities in the home environment, including without limitation: role play and demonstration by trained volunteers, the use of and access to Department of Education website tools for parents [<http://www.arkansased.gov>], assistance with nutritional meal planning[A.C.A. §6-15-1702(b)(5)(B)(ii)(a-d)].

5. Coordination

Mathias Elementary School will coordinate and integrate, to the extent feasible and appropriate, Parent and Family Engagement programs and activities with the HIPPY program and the Rogers preschool. Community partnerships are formed to assist in the programs of the school. State Farm, Samaritan House, Walmart Foundation, and Lowell/Rogers Chamber of Commerce are a few local businesses that support Mathias. Mathias Elementary also partners with numerous restaurants in the Rogers area for fundraising opportunities for Spirit Nights.

6. Annual Title I Meeting

An annual meeting will be held in September 2023 to inform parents of the school's participation in Title I, Part A programs and explain the Title I, Part A requirements and the right of parents to be involved in those programs. Parents will be provided with timely information about what students will be learning; how students will be assessed; what parents should expect for their child's education; and how a parent can assist and make a difference in his or her child's education.

7. School-Parent Compact

In order to show that shared responsibility, Mathias Elementary School, in conjunction with the Mathias Parent/Teacher Organization (consisting of parents of students participating in the Title 1 program), develop a School-Parent Compact that is reviewed annually. The School-Parent Compact describes the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive, effective learning environment that enables children served under Title I, Part A to meet the State's academic achievement standards. The School-Parent Compact describes ways in which parents will be responsible for supporting the child's learning, volunteering in the child's classroom and school, participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of the child, and positive use of extra-curricular time. The School-Parent Compact describes the importance of a partnership between teachers and parents. It is on-going through parent-teacher conferences, frequent reports to parents on the child's progress, and reasonable access to staff. The School-Parent Compact describes opportunities to volunteer and participate in the child's class and school activities in a variety of roles. Parents are able to access the compact in order to understand the shared responsibility for improved student academic achievement at the beginning of the school year and during the fall 2023 parent teacher conference. It can also be found online under the state required information tab on our district website and also at this link [Mathias Parent School Compact](#).

8. Reservation of Funds

Parent and Family Engagement funds will be used to: increase involvement of parents and community members, increase parental awareness of grade-level expectations, foster parents' responsibility and support for their child's learning including, provide frequent communication with parents on their child's progress, address specific academic needs as identified in the SLIP, provide opportunities for parents to volunteer and participate, provide assistance to parents in such areas as parenting skills, homework, communication with teachers, etc., provide flexible conference times to accommodate working parents, and inform parents of available community resources.

Mathias Elementary will involve parents and family members in the decisions regarding how reserved funds are allotted for parent and family engagement activities through surveys and meetings.

MATHIAS TITLE I PARENT/GUARDIAN ENGAGEMENT COMPACT

Believing that high student performance is a shared responsibility, Mathias Elementary School and the parents/guardians agree to enter into this Compact:

THE SCHOOL WILL:

- _____ Provide high quality curriculum and instruction and relevant homework that will enable participating children, with the involvement of parents/guardians, to meet student performance standards set forth by the State of Arkansas for all students;
- _____ Hold an annual meeting for parents/guardians of eligible children to notify them of their child's eligibility to participate in the program, explain the Title I program, this Compact and inform them of the importance of their involvement with their child;
- _____ Offer a flexible number of meetings (a.m. and p.m.) to provide timely information and training for parents/guardians in order to help them become effective partners in their child's learning;
- _____ Provide frequent reports allowing two-way communication with parents/guardians on proficiency levels children are expected to meet and their child's progress toward meeting State standards.
- _____ Provide parents reasonable access to staff by school email, opportunities to meet during teacher planning time, during parent/teacher conferences, or by appointment as requested by parents/guardians;
- _____ Provide parents opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class, and to observe classroom activities as requested by parent and/or teacher;
- _____ Provide timely responses to parents'/guardians' recommendations.

THE PARENTS/GUARDIANS WILL:

- _____ Ensure prompt and regular school attendance because your child is missing learning when they are absent or tardy. Breakfast in the Classroom starts our day together as a school family. Your child will not want to miss this relationship building opportunity with teachers and classmates.
- _____ Read and respond to communications from the school
- _____ Ensure your child completes their homework and reads every night.
- _____ Have a routine that allows your child to develop healthy habits such as at least eight hours of sleep, physical exercise every day, monitoring television programs, video games, internet, and social media time in order to support your child's learning as the most important thing for them.

Korienne Toney
Principal

Volunteer Sign-Up Sheet

2023-2024

Dear Parents,

Mathias Elementary takes pride in the group of very involved parents who volunteer numerous hours each year in the classrooms and during special events at the school. Research has shown that parental and family engagement is a very important factor in determining a child's success in school. Parental and family engagement can involve time at school or time at home. If you have some time and desire to become a volunteer at our school, please take a few moments to indicate which area(s) you might be interested in. The office or the teacher will contact you.

Parent's Name _____ Phone number _____

Email Address _____

Child's Name _____ Teacher _____

Times Available to help: Day of the Week: _____

Time of Day: _____

Teacher Support

- _____ Run copies for teachers
- _____ Help organize classroom libraries
- _____ Sit with a class while the teacher attends a conference
- _____ Prepare Materials

Working with One or a Few

- _____ Listen to children read
- _____ Read to children
- _____ Provide additional help with math or reading

School-wide Assistance

- _____ Help with Family Nights
- _____ Help with Field Day (May)

Library/Media Center

- _____ Help with Book Fair
- _____ Help with Book Shelves

*Thank you so much for your help!
Parents Make all the Difference!*

Contact Information

Mathias Elementary School
1609 North 24th Street
Rogers, Arkansas 72756
479.631.3530 Phone
479.202.9098 Fax

MATHIAS ELEMENTARY FACULTY

Korienne Toney
Cassie Cartwright
Leticia Polanco
Stephanie Green
Kim Dixon
Jennifer Shaw
Jim Brown
Teri Maddox
Shari Rafferty
Nadia Zelaya
Brooka McCubbin
Lindsay Ramey
Renee Huhman
Taylor Kennon
Lacey Anderson
Shannon Bink
Asha Brantley
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Margie Brown
Serena Gelinias
Whitney Wright
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Principal
Assistant Principal
Office Manager
Office Assistant
Counselor
Nurse
Physical Education
Art
Librarian
Library Aide
Music
Reading Teacher
Literacy Coach
Math Coach
Kindergarten
Kindergarten
Kindergarten
Kindergarten
First Grade
First Grade
First Grade
Second Grade
Second Grade
Second Grade
Third Grade
Third Grade
Third Grade

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Cassie Mabry	cassie.mabry@rpsar.net	Fourth Grade
Brandi Timmons	brandi.timmons@rpsar.net	Fourth Grade
Chris Holman	christopher.holman@rpsar.net	Fifth Grade
Colleen McClain	colleen.mcclain@rpsar.net	Fifth Grade
GeneAnn Morrison	geneann.morrison@rpsar.net	Fifth Grade
Teresa Newton	teresa.newton@rpsar.net	Resource
Colleen Cestari	colleen.cestari@rpsar.net	Self-contained
Kalpana Manda	kalpana.manda@rpsar.net	Aide
Matt Harding	matt.harding@rpsar.net	Aide
Jill Ray	jill.ray@rpsar.net	Speech
Carly Hale	carly.hale@rpsar.net	School Psychologist
Lauren Eide	lauren.eide@rpsar.net	REACH
Becky Boyett	becky.boyett@rpsar.net	ESOL Teacher
Andrew Schmidt	andrew.schmidt@rpsar.net	ESOL Aide
Maricarmen Barajas	maricarmen.barajas@rpsar.net	Title Aide
Sam Stephens	samantha.stephens@rpsar.net	Title Aide
Kathy Stroud	kathy.stroud@rpsar.net	Title Aide
Sarah Toto	sarah.toto@rpsar.net	Title Aide/Duty Relief
Luz Basurto	luz.basurto@rpsar.net	Duty Relief
Cecilia Alvarez	cecilia.alvarez@rpsar.net	Duty Relief
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