

## **PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT, SHARED DECISION-MAKING COMMITTEES, AND THE HOME-SCHOOL COMPACT**

The Manhasset Board of Education believes that parents/guardians are the primary educators of and caregivers for their children and that positive parental involvement is essential to student achievement, and thus encourages such involvement in school educational planning and operations. Accordingly, it directs the administration to implement programs, activities and procedures to achieve parental involvement in planning, designing and implementing such programs.

The Manhasset School District annually appoints shared decision-making committees for each of its schools in accordance with the New York State Compact for Learning. Shared decision-making is a process by which all stakeholders of the district collaborate in identifying problems, defining goals, formulating policy and implementing programs by consensus. Information is shared, communication improved and imaginative and innovative thinking cultivated at the building level. School committees identify areas of focus each year. What follows is a cooperative effort intended to give shape to a shared purpose: the improvement of student performance, the emotional and physical well-being of our students, the advancement of learning, and the participation of all members of the school community. Membership for parents is by application/lottery selection. Staff membership is coordinated at each building.

The district conducts ongoing training of staff, in collaboration with PTAs and Shared Decision Making Committees, to develop and strengthen all avenues of parental involvement in school programs. All information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand. Furthermore, the district employs interpreters when necessary to facilitate parent conferences. At the classroom level, teachers and staff are encouraged to develop practices for involving parents/guardians at home. These include, but are not limited to, planning home reading assignments, informal learning activities, and homework "contracts" between parents and children. All practices so developed are intended to strengthen the relationship between home and school.

The staff and parent/guardians of Manhasset Public Schools have high expectations for themselves and for the students attending our schools. In an effort to provide the highest quality instructional program to students, and to show how the school and family are working together to educate the children, listed below are activities carried out by the district:

- Offering relevant parent education workshops and meetings,
- Involving parents in planning, reviewing and improving all programs within each school, in order to ensure adequate representation of parents of children participating in Title I programs,
- Providing parents with timely information about all programs,
- Providing assessment results for each child and other pertinent individual and school district education information,
- Providing high quality curriculum and instruction, and,
- Fostering communication between teachers and parents through parent teacher conferences, reports to parents on their children's progress, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class and observe classroom activities.

In return, the district invokes, encourages, and invites every parent/guardian:

- To become involved in developing, implementing, evaluating, and revising the school-parent involvement policy, as appropriate,
- To use or request parent training that the school may offer on child rearing practices and teaching and learning strategies,
- To work with their child/children on schoolwork,
- To establish a routine for reading to or with their children each day,
- To monitor their child/children's attendance and punctuality at school and homework completion,
- To visit the library regularly,
- To share the responsibility for improved student achievement, and,
- To communicate with teachers about their child/children's educational needs.

For further information, please refer to the District's Parental Involvement Policy # 1900 and all cross-referenced documents in this website's link for District Policy Manual under the Board of Education heading.