



2023-2024 Family Engagement Plan

Mission:

Provide students with rigorous academics featuring vocal and instrumental music education, while building family and community partnerships in a welcoming environment that together will inspire future leaders.

The Family Engagement Plan (FEP) is organized into four impact areas. We will be working together this year to build positive and goal-oriented relationships in each area. Families and staff at school developed this plan together.

Welcoming Environment	
<p>Our school has staff member(s) available for families to discuss this plan and ask questions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Principal: Bee Lee ● Assistant Principal: James Glaser ● Achievement Plus Coordinator: Craig Sweet ● Academic Support Specialist: Julie Harrington
<p>Our school communicates with families in many ways.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Teachers send home a weekly communication sheet to keep families informed about upcoming classroom activities. ● Monthly newsletters are sent home to inform families about school events and share accomplishments. ● Our website is up to date with news and announcements. Pictures are posted to share family events. ● All e-mails, texts and robo-calls made throughout the year that pertain to upcoming school events are communicated with the languages of our families in mind, and the needs of our parents. ● It is our expectation that our staff respond to family requests and questions within 24 hours. ● We engage with families on Instagram and Facebook and post frequent updates about school and community events.
<p>The achievement gap, or rather the “opportunity gap,” between students of color and white students in Saint Paul Public Schools is unacceptable. Our school is working to change practices and systems by identifying the barriers that make it harder for students of color to succeed and for their families to support their learning.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● For more about our work on racial equity, contact: Bee Lee.

<p>Transitions between schools can be challenging, and we work to help families as their children start and leave our school.</p>	<p>For new students and families, we support the transition by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tours are available throughout the year for newly enrolled families, as well as prospective families. ● We host a fall Open House during the week prior to the start of school. This event allows families to meet their child’s new teacher, visit the classroom and receive important information. ● Students in Pre-k and kindergarten are invited to a “playdate” in the fall. This is an opportunity to meet other families, teachers and get to know the school building with just these grades. ● Families with students in our pre-K program have opportunities (Fall and Spring) to visit the transitioning grade level via our Take Your Parent to School Days. Families participate in a group discussion to talk about strategies for supporting the transition and grade level learning at home. <p>For students and families moving to the next school in their pathway, we support the transition by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fifth grade students go on a field trip to our pathway schools, Creative Arts and Washington to learn about the middle school program. ● Fifth grade students experience a mock-middle school day. ● Families are invited in for a meeting with the counselor to help clarify any questions regarding this transition.
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Family Partnerships	
<p>Our school-parent compact establishes the shared responsibility for student success between the school, families, and students. Families and teachers work together to develop the compact.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Copies of the compact are available: All students will receive a copy of the compact during our Open House or at fall conferences. ● The compact is updated each spring.
<p>There are many opportunities for families to build connections to the school and to each other.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Title I Annual Meeting, where we will share information about school programs, will be during our fall Open House in September. ● Family Connection meetings are held each month, we review Title 1 and specific topics that benefit our families. ● National African American Parent Involvement Day (NAAPID) ● Culture Celebration Night is celebrated in May to recognize the many cultures represented in our school. ● Two large music concerts are offered – one in the winter and one in the spring.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● An August and January Open House welcomes potential new students and celebrates music, science, literacy and math with a variety of hands -on activities for families and students. ● Clearly communicate opportunities available for families to participate in field trips. ● Family Meetings to learn how to better support their children in math and reading. ● Frequent all school events to encourage engagement and connection between school and community.
We work to make these meetings and events available for every family in the school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Translators are available at every family event. Taxi service is also provided for those that need transportation. ● Events are offered both during the day and during the evening to meet the needs of various work schedules. ● Flyers are translated and phone calls are made to include all families. ● Events are communicated through text, phone call, email, student platforms and social media.
Our school supports families as advocates and provides opportunities for parent leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Families are invited to join our Family Connections program. ● Families are invited to give input into our SCIP and Family Engagement Plan.

Teaching and Learning	
Our school shares information about student achievement with families in multiple ways	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Report cards will be shared during fall and winter conferences. Progress reports can be found on the one stop. spps.org/onestop ● Parent-Teacher conferences are held in November and March. ● Parents in grades pre-K through 5 are invited to visit classrooms and discuss strategies to improve reading and math during Family School Days and before PTO meetings ● Achievement Data is shared at our Annual Title 1 Meeting
Our school will engage in personalized learning as a key strategy to accelerate student achievement. Families can get more information using many tools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Information about personalized learning is shared with families via newsletters and emails. ● Teachers share information with families about Schoology and Seesaw and expectations for these learning tools. ● At least one Family Connection night each year will cover technology, tools and strategies to help families engage in their student's learning.
Many before- and after-school enrichment and support opportunities are available for students.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Extended Day Learning (EDL) meets twice per week to support students in math and reading. ● Partnerships for sports clinics and camps.

Community Partnerships

Our school develops community partnerships to provide additional support for students and their families

Saint Paul Music Academy is an Achievement Plus School with the following partnerships:

- East Side Family Center
- East Side Learning Center
- Children’s Dental Services
- Goodwill/ Easter Seals
- Wilder Foundation
- State of Minnesota Employees
- Neighborhood House

Saint Paul Music Academy also has community partnerships in the arts and academics:

- Minnesota Orchestra
- Minnesota Opera
- Minneapolis Institute of Arts
- New Horizon Child Care Center
- Digital Works
- Como Zoo
- Junior Achievement
- Various Faith Organizations
- Minnesota Math Corps
- Washington Technology Magnet Navy JROTC

This plan is available as part of our school’s SCIP, or School Comprehensive Improvement Plan at scip.spps.org, is on our school website at spma.spps.org, and printed copies are available in the office.