2022-2023 Family Engagement Plan (FEP)

**Definition of E-STEM:** E-STEM education is an approach to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Education that engages students through authentic problem-solving in a supportive learning environment.

**Mission:** At E-Stem we ENGAGE students in a SUPPORTIVE community through TRUSTING relationships and EXPERIENTIAL learning opportunities that make learning MEANINGFUL.

**Vision:** E-STEM Middle School will foster curiosity, build partnerships through problem solving, and hands-on environmental learning in a safe, invested, and diverse community to prepare our learners for their futures!

**Collective Commitments:** We will be compassionately accountable to ourselves and each other. We will support and believe in each other. We will collaborate as teams. We will put the needs of our students at the forefront of our daily practice. We will hold students to high expectations allowing them to grow every day. We will create a learning environment where all students feel safe to try, to succeed, and to learn from their failures. We will acknowledge the important roles each member of our community plays in the development of each student. We will celebrate our differences. We will work in partnership with our families and community.

The Family Engagement Plan (FEP) is organized into four impact areas: Welcoming Environment, Family Partnerships, Community Partnerships and Teaching and Learning. Families and staff developed this plan together to build positive and goal-oriented relationships in each area.
## Welcoming Environment

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<th>Our school has staff members available for families to discuss this plan and ask questions.</th>
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| - Principal: Jocelyn Sims  
- Counselor: Courtnie Conyers and Courtney Queen  
- Family Liaison: TBD |

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<th>Our school communicates with families in many ways</th>
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| - Families at E-STEM are sent a weekly e-mailed bulletin called the “Raptor’s Rap” by Ms. Sims, the Principal. The Raptor’s Rap explains events and announcements that are happening around the building. (New info, Celebrations, Flipside, Athletics, Parents Corner, Teacher Requests, & Old News).  
- Families can monitor student grades and attendance through Schoology. Schoology accounts can be activated by contacting the school office. All 5th grade families are encouraged to register and are trained in Schoology at 6th grade registration (Spring of 2022).  
- Families can stay informed of daily/weekly class happenings by checking Schoology.  
- All teachers stay connected with families through Schoology, phone, e-mail contacts, Parent Portal and conferences.  
- All school events will be announced through BlackboardConnect emails and phone calls. All BlackboardConnect communications are made in English, Spanish, Hmong, Karen and Somali.  
- Our school website is updated with important information on a regular basis. We encourage families to visit it often at [http://spps.org/estem](http://spps.org/estem)  
- When families call, email or send a note, we do our best to respond within 24 hours.  
- Family’s Meeting Monthly (F.A.M.) meetings are held monthly alternating from morning and evening times. Meetings address community building, principal update, upcoming events and an educational topic such as: Restorative Practices, Adolescence, Self-Esteem, Grading, Personalized |
| The achievement gap, between students of color and white students in Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS) 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 their families to support their learning. | The Leadership Team guides the focused racial equity work at E-STEM Middle School. 
- Staff at E-STEM are committed to embedding equity work through the use and belief of Restorative Practices.
- Instruction is a focus for all staff and is the focus in PLC’s: Rigor, Relevance, Realness and Responsive
- Parents, families and community members are given a chance to voice their concerns and provide counter-narratives through Restorative Practice Circles.
- **Tutoring Tuesday** with The Black Honor Society is an intervention targeted to help close the achievement gap. |
|---|---|
| Transitions between schools can be challenging and we work to help families as their children start and leave school. | “Experience E-STEM” 5th Grade Feeder School Visits to E-STEM
- Showcase night
- Registration night
- Meet and Greet in May for our incoming 6th graders and their families
- Camp E-STEM in August before school starts |
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<th>E-STEM MIDDLE SCHOOL</th>
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<td>600 Weir Drive Woodbury, MN 55125</td>
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<td>Phone: 651-744-2900 Fax: 651-233-5179</td>
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- Caregiver Orientation meeting and a Caregiver Information Night
- Open House.

**Family Partnerships**

| 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. | Copies of the compact are available at all school events and on our website.  
The compact will be updated: In the Spring of each school year |
|---|---|
| There are many opportunities for families to build connections to the school and to each other. | Title I Annual Meeting is held in Fall of 2021  
Incoming 6th grade Registration, 5th grade “Experience E-STEM”, F.A.M., Open House, Honor Roll and 3B Assemblies, Hmong New Year, Black History Celebration, Cinco de Mayo Celebration, Band/Orchestra/Choir Concerts  
Families Attending Monthly (FAM) meets the third Thursday of each month from 6:00pm-7:30pm. Topics are parent focused and suggested.  
E-STEM caregivers are given the opportunity to volunteer at all events hosted at E-STEM.  
Caregivers support their students at after school events such as sports and performances. |
| We work to make these meetings and events available for every family in the school. | Student Progress Reports are mailed to families at each quarter mid-way point and at the end of each quarter.  
Interpreters are provided for all school events as needed.  
A light snack will be provided at all school events.  
Families can utilize the Clothes Closet when in need. |
Families without internet capabilities will be given the option to receive paper copies of our electronic communications.
- We will have interpreters available when needed.
- Our Spanish interpreter will provide translations of paper materials as needed.
- E-STEM will use Blackboard Connect for email and text communications with families as needed.

Our school supports families as advocates and provides opportunities for parent leadership
- If a parent has a concern about a child’s learning, they are encouraged to contact their child’s teacher or counselor via phone, email or in person.
- All parents are invited to volunteer for a variety of events and attend our F.A.M. meetings.
- Parent leader(s) will develop and support our F.A.M.
- Our F.A.M. will have space on the Raptor’s Rap and will report regularly.
- School administrative team continually encourages feedback from families.
- Parents have an opportunity to review and contribute to any editing of the E-STEM Compact and E-STEM Family Engagement Plan (FEP) in the spring.
- A parent survey will be sent to the families at the end of the school year.

Teaching and Learning

Our school shares information about student achievement with families in multiple ways
- Report cards and progress reports will be distributed eight times a year through the mail.
- Parent-Teacher conferences are held in the fall and spring.
- E-STEM teaches families awareness and understanding of Schoology.
- School administrative team continually informs families about student achievement at all school events.
- Student achievement is incorporated at all school events: Incoming 6th grade
Registration, 5th grade “Experience E-STEM”, F.A.M., Open House, Honor Roll and 3B Assemblies, Hmong New Year, Black History Celebration, Cinco de Mayo Celebration, Band/Orchestra/Choir Concerts

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<th>Our school will engage families in Personalized Learning as a key strategy to accelerate student achievement, as these changes come to our school</th>
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| • All students will be given an iPad for the school year.  
• Professional Development opportunities related to iPad use in the classroom are provided for staff on a regular basis.  
• Support in utilizing Schoology will be offered to parents at all open houses and Parent-Teacher Conferences.  
• Our Technology Specialists are available to families to assist with questions at all times.  
• Students will facilitate family learning regarding technology in the classroom. |

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<th>After school enrichment and support opportunities are available for students</th>
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<td>• Our Extended Day Learning (EDL) program offers several after school enrichment programs including academic, and extension options: Athletics Department/Sports Extended Day Learning (EDL) Cooking Class Lego Robotics</td>
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**Community Partnerships**

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<th>Our school develops community partnerships to provide additional support for students and their families</th>
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<td>• E-STEM offers support to our students through Audubon Adventures, Junior Achievement, the University of Minnesota, Get Ready, Change Inc., Starbase and Legal Rights Center-Family Group Conferencing</td>
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