



FOSTER

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

A Day in the Life Overview
Parent Meeting, February 4, 2026



Agenda

5:30-6:30

Learn About Foster School:

- ◆ **Team Builder**
- ◆ **A Unified Vision**
- ◆ **A Day in the Life**

6:30-7:30

Family Engagement:

- ◆ **Various Ways to Engage**
- ◆ **Questionnaire**
- ◆ **Q & A**



*Like the Phoenix
we rise, resilient
deeply rooted in **identity**
propelled by **inquiry**,
vigilant guardian of **justice**.*

Foster School Construction Update



West atrium looking south

Awaits metal panel installation at the roof for the last external building facade work to be completed



South facing second floor

Insulated metal panels are installed for the exterior walls of the future Drama and music classrooms.

January 2026

Foster School Construction Update



4-5 grade science classroom facing SE

Porcelain tile floor, drop ceiling grid with lights, and classroom cabinetry have been installed



4-5 grade science classroom facing NE

Cabinetry includes a classroom sink and a solid core countertop

Foster School: Culturally and Linguistically Diverse



Foster School Cultural Aspirations



FUNTUNFUNEFU
DENKYEMFUNEFU

Conjoined (Siamese) crocodiles
A West African Adinkra symbol of unity in diversity

The crocodiles share the same stomach yet still fight for food.

Cross program fellowship opportunities:

- ❖ Daily Specials Rotations
- ❖ Class Buddy Groups

We are Foster School: Team Builder

Conjoined crocodiles

An Adinkra symbol of unity in diversity



Our crocodiles share the same stomach, we will not fight for food.

Directions:

- ❖ Get into a Triad, find two people who have the same sticker as you.
- ❖ Take 1.5 minutes to share with your partners (30 sec. each).
- ❖ When your team is done, raise your hand and each person should find another triad, with two people who have 2 different stickers.
- ❖ Take 1.5 minutes to share (30 sec. each).
- ❖ When your team is done, raise your hand.

Talking Points:

Cross program fellowship opportunity:

- ❖ *Who Am I?*
- ❖ *Who Are my children?*
- ❖ *What are our hopes, dreams and aspirations for our school community?*

**Bilingualism
and
Biliteracy**

**Grade-Level
Academic
Achievement**

**Cross-
Cultural
Competence**

The Three Pillars of Dual Language

Bilingualism &
Biliteracy



High Academic
Achievement



Socio-cultural
Competence



A UNIFIED VISION

rooted in



propelled by



*vigilant
guardians of*



IDENTITY

INQUIRY

JUSTICE

Foster School Culture Aspirations



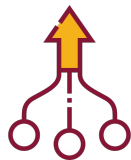
A neighborhood school that will...



Provide a unified vision across learning environments.



Build capacity of teacher teams in empowering students to work collaboratively.



Strengthen factors that contribute to school improvement and math and reading achievement.



Leverage every student's culture, language, and background as a tool for learning.

Foster Conjoined Communities: ACC Reimagined with TWI

Foster: TWI Community

- Dual Spanish and English language instruction
- Biliteracy strategies
- Linguistically responsive

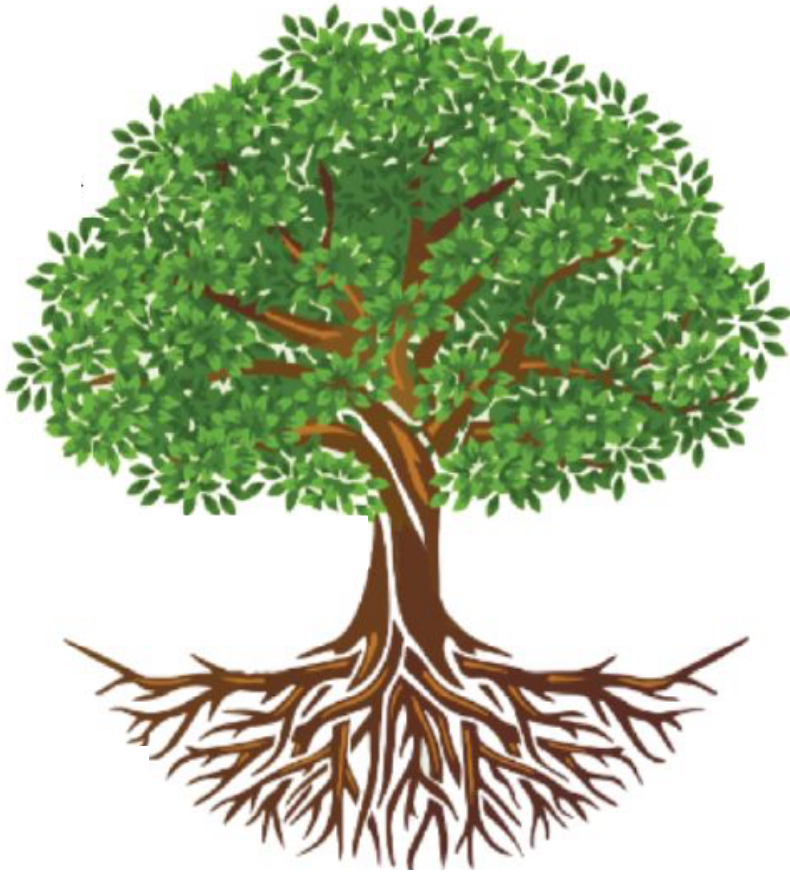
ACC Reimagined

- School Mission, Vision & Values
- Culturally affirming SEL & instruction
- Core curricular resources
- FAPEL offerings and extra curricular activities
- Crossover Celebration

Foster: Monolingual Community

- English language instruction
- ESL strategies

The Culture Tree: In Full Bloom



Their Future: Social Justice

- Equipped to solve problems and empowered to take action for justice

Our Curriculum: Inquiry Learning Frameworks

- Anchored Inquiry Learning
- Collaborative Teaching & Learning

Our Roots: Identity

- Guiding Principles: Nguzo Saba & Sankofa



A Day in the Life at Foster School

- ❖ Before School
- ❖ Math
- ❖ Literacy
- ❖ Science/ Social Science
- ❖ After School

A Day in the Life: Before School

K-2

A Warm Welcome (Before School)

- **A Confident Start:** Our doors open early to invite every student into a calm, uplifting beginning. Each child is greeted by name and welcomed by a caring adult who believes in their potential.
- **Nourish and Connect:** Students can enjoy a healthy breakfast, share conversations with friends, or engage their minds with puzzles, drawing, or a favorite book—starting the day with curiosity and connection.
- **Ready to Thrive:** This morning time ensures every child feels safe, valued, and prepared—emotionally and mentally—to step into the day with confidence and joy for learning.

3-5

Starting with Purpose (Before School)

- **A Responsible Start:** This time is a blend of calm connection and student responsibility.
- **Fuel & Focus:** Students arrive, eat breakfast, and connect with peers. Many use this time to read a book of their choice or get organized for the day.
- **Leadership in Action:** This is when student leaders prepare for their roles, whether it's the "Safety Patrol," or "Tech Buddies" getting the computers ready.

A Day in the Life: Morning Meeting (SEL)/WIN



The Day Begins: Feeling Safe & Connected

- **(Bi-Monthly) Community Circle:** We come together to celebrate our cultures, cheer for one another's successes, and sing with joy. Older students lead and support the younger ones, showing that we all have something special to give and to learn. In this meeting our learning and sharing are centered on students deepening their learning of the Nguzo Saba principle focus for the year.
- **Daily Morning Meeting:** We begin each day together in a circle, where every voice matters. We sing, share our ideas, and set goals for the day—building confidence, kindness, and a sense of belonging so everyone feels ready to learn.



What I Need Time (W.I.N. Time)

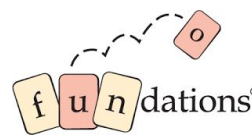
Phonics, Literacy, & Foundational Math

- **Phonics:** We play fun, fast-paced games to learn our letters, sounds, and "sight words."
- **Acceleration Block:** This is "just-right" time for your child. Some students play challenge games, while others get extra help from a teacher in a small group. Everyone gets what they need to grow.

Word Study & Acceleration: Setting Our Own Goals

- **Word Study:** Phonics grows up. Students now study word roots, prefixes, and suffixes (morphology) to unlock the meaning of complex academic words.
- **Acceleration Block:** This is flexible, data-driven time. Students work on personalized learning paths, tackle advanced enrichment projects, or get targeted support in a small strategy group.

A Day in the Life: Literacy & Math



K-2 Foundational Skills

Thinking Like a Reader



Reading to Learn, Think, and Lead

- Reading becomes a powerful tool for learning, thinking, and exploring new ideas.
- Students collaborate in book clubs and strategy groups, growing their independence and confidence as readers.
- We dive into complex and diverse texts—both fiction and nonfiction—analyzing evidence, exploring big themes, and comparing perspectives from around the world.
- Reading inspires writing: students craft essays, narratives, and arguments that show their voice, insight, and creativity.
- Each new skill strengthens their ability to think critically, communicate clearly, and see themselves as capable, lifelong learners.

Analyzing Like a Mathematician



Solving Real Problems

Math Workshop: Explaining Our Thinking

- This is a "Thinking Classroom." Problems are challenging and are solved in teams at vertical whiteboards.
- The focus is less on the *answer* and more on the *strategy*. Students must be able to explain *how* they got their answer and *why* their method works.
- We use culturally relevant, real-world problems (e.g., budgeting for a community garden).



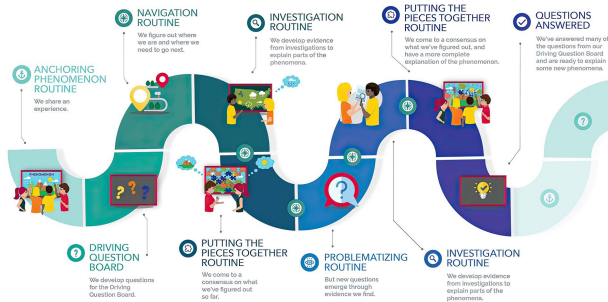
A Day in the Life: Writing, Science/ Social Science

Exploring Our World

Getting Curious & Creative!

- **Science/Social Studies:** We get to be scientists and explorers! We'll plant seeds, learn about helpers in our community, and ask "I wonder..." questions.
- **Writing Time:** We draw pictures and write stories about our families, our pets, and our favorite things.

Anchored Inquiry Learning in Science

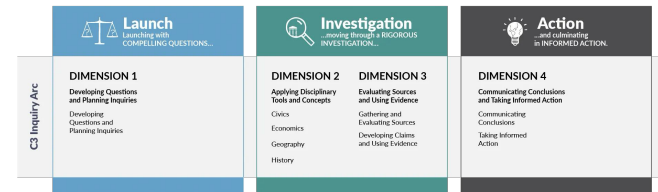


Finding Our Voice

Inquiry, Writing & Creative Expression

- **Science/Social Studies:** We are historians and scientists. Students work on long-term inquiry projects, like researching an overlooked historical figure or designing an experiment to test a hypothesis.
- **Writing:** Students learn that writing is a tool for change. They write persuasive essays, opinion letters to the principal, and personal narratives that explore their identity.

Social Science Inquiry Framework



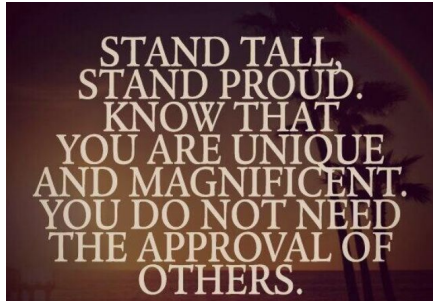
A Day in the Life: At the End of the Day

Going Home Happy

Proud, Kind, and Curious

Your child leaves school each day:

- Feeling **PROUD** of who they are.
- Knowing how to be **KIND** to others.
- Feeling **CURIOUS** and excited to come back tomorrow!



Closing the Day

Growing as Thinkers, Leaders, and Changemakers

Your child leaves school each day:

- Able to **THINK CRITICALLY** about the world.
- Feeling confident as a **LEADER** in their community.
- Empowered to **MAKE A DIFFERENCE**.



Table Discussion

What do we need to consider to support a smooth transition for your child?





Family Engagement

6:30–7:30pm

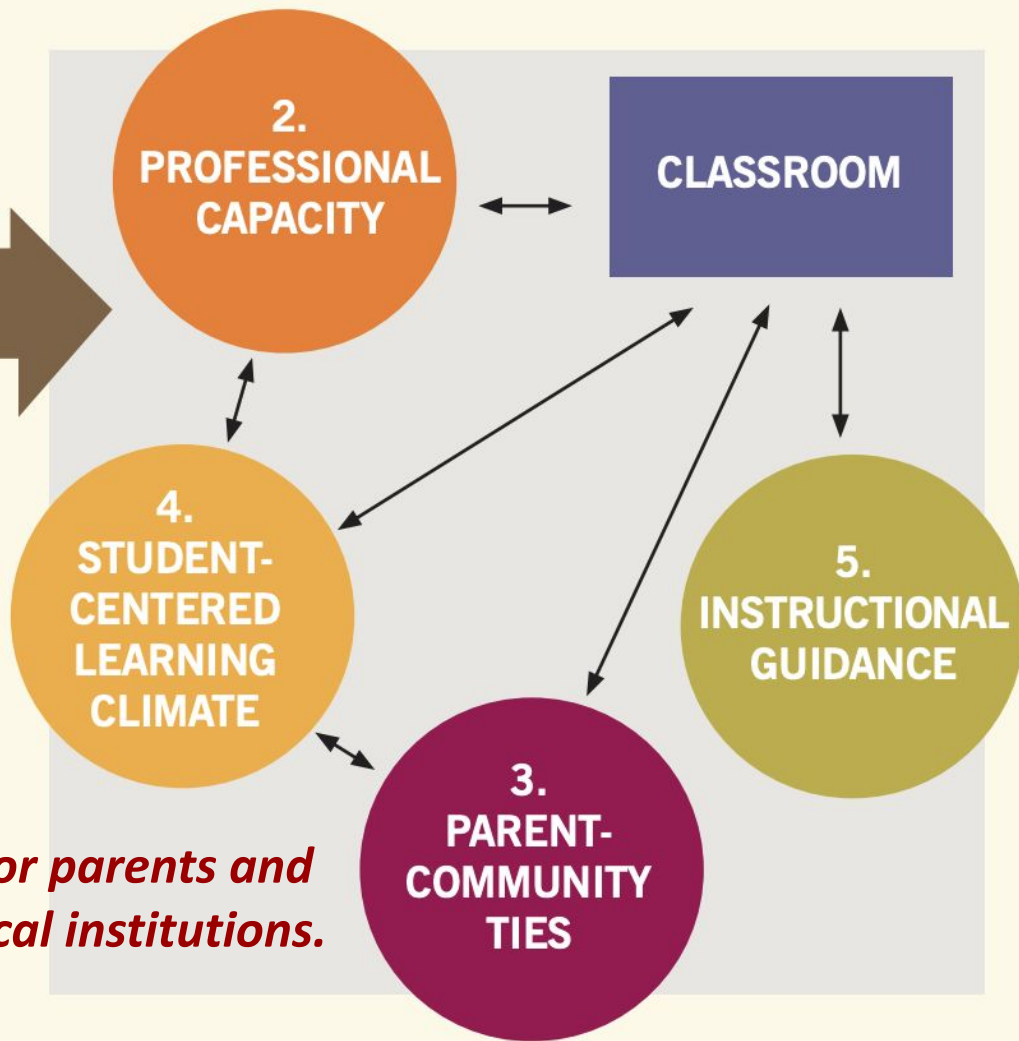


The Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family-School Partnerships (Version 2)





FIVE ESSENTIAL SUPPORTS



Schools are a welcoming place for parents and have strong connections with local institutions.

Six Slices of Family Engagement: Gets to the Core

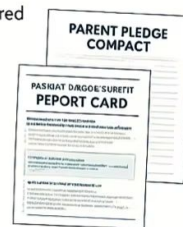


Family Engagement Toolbox

1 The Parent Engagement Pledge & Report Card

Slice 3: Support Student Success

Build a culture of shared responsibility with a custom-branded Parent Engagement Pledge and Report Card--for distribution to all families.



2 Strategies for Engaging Families

Supports All Six Slices of Family Engagement

This is a practical, research-based guide from Project Appleseed that shows how to increase parent engagement.

STRATEGIES
FOR
ENGAGING
FAMILIES

3 Parent Activity Handbook

Slice 6: Collaborate with Community. The Parent Activity Handbook offers 100+ creative ideas to involve families in school-based activities.



5 Reimagine Family Engagement PowerPoint

Slice 3: Support Student Success. Inspire your staff and community with this dynamic presentation that highlights the critical role of parents.

4 The Red Carpet Treatment

Slice 1: Welcome All Families

Redefine what it means to welcome families into your school with the Red Carpet Treatment.

6 The Family Engagement Game

Slices 1 & 5

Welcome All Families

Make-engagement fun and interactive





10 Step Engagement Plan

1. Form a diverse Family Engagement **Committee**
2. Define clear **goals** with input from all stakeholders.
3. Conduct a needs **assessment**
4. Identify **key strategies** (like the Pledge and Report Card)
5. Create an implementation plan **timeline**
6. Allocate resources and assign **responsibilities**
7. Provide **professional development**
8. Launch and promote **the plan**
9. Monitor progress and make **adjustments**
10. **Reflect**, celebrate and repeat

Phase I Committees:

short term commitment, one time

- ❖ Summer Community MeetUps
- ❖ Grand Opening Ceremony
- ❖ Beautification Committee
- ❖ Family Open House & First Day of School

Phase II Committees:

long term commitment, school year

- ❖ Family Engagement Steering Committee
- ❖ Mission & Vision Committee

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MEETING

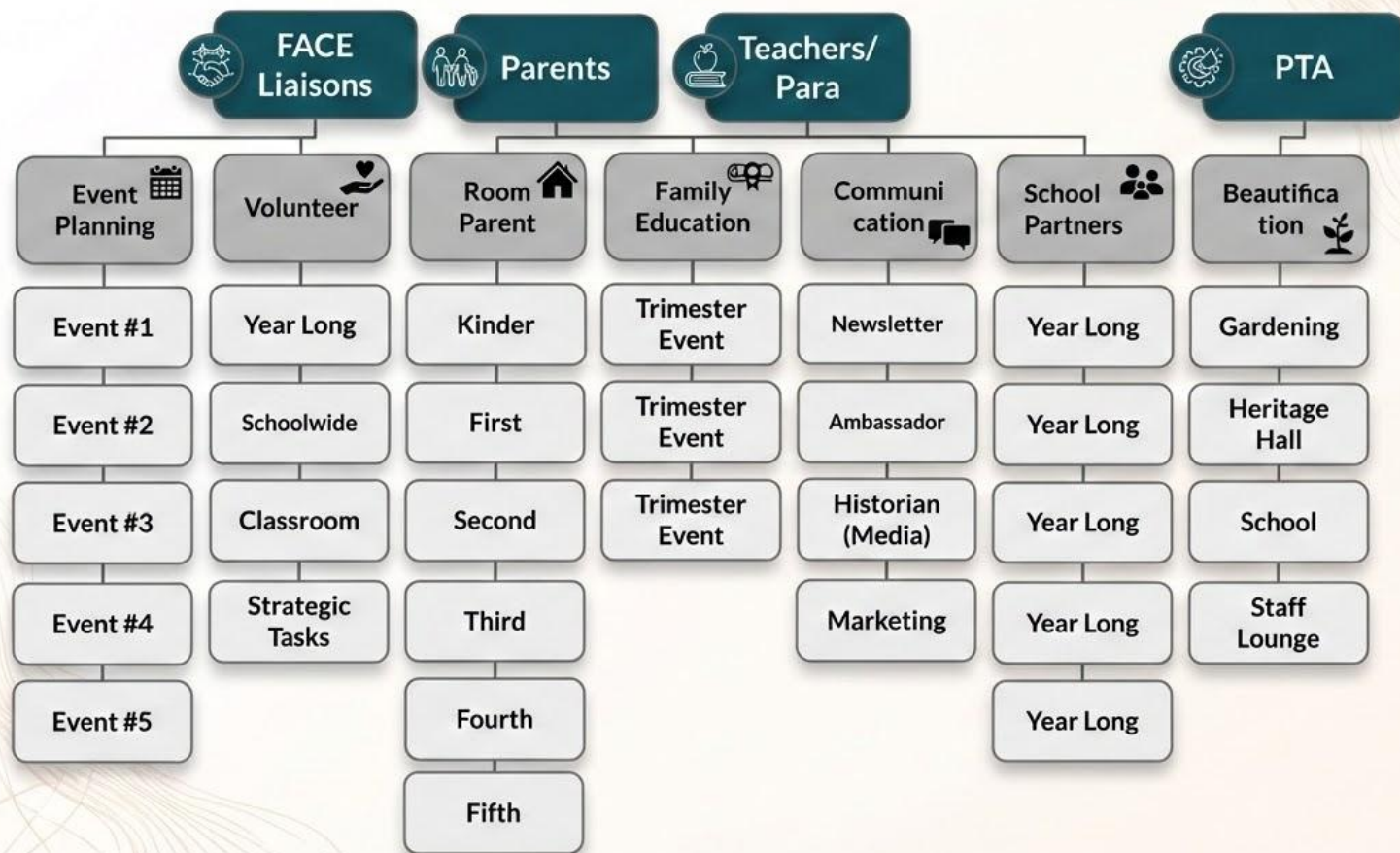
Suggestions for Future Foster Family Gatherings: Calendar

- Movie night
- Field trip
- Family karaoke night
- Anti bully program
- Noches Latinas
- Movie in the Park
- Park Meetup
- Family game night
- School tour
- Create a sensory wall
- Trivia night
- Chalk The Walk sidewalk
- Excursiones familiares
- Spring picnic
- Games with prizes for the kids
- Moonwalk and Dunk Tank
- Ice cream social
- African History Night

- Family game night
- Hispanic Heritage and Black Heritage night
- Family Field Day
- Family Summer Event / Picnic
- Splash Day / Water Day
- Black History Month celebration
- Book club
- Interactive networking with activity centered around learning culture and history
- Art Day
- Plant a tree or garden
- Family/Parenting Lessons to take home
- Service: Soup kitchen service, Food clothes Drive, etc.
- Saturday Games

- Bake sales
- Spelling bee
- Yard sale
- International night
- Museum trips
- Bonfire science fire
- Talent shows
- Tea party
- Parent meetups
- Fall Festival
- Winter Wonderland Family Community Design Day
- Entrepreneurs Carnival Walkathon
- Movies at the park
- Baking cookies/cooking classes
- Learning new language night

Family Engagement Steering Committee





Phase II Committees:

long term commitment during school year

- ❖ Family Engagement Steering Committee
- ❖ Cultural Engagement Support

Phase I Committee: Summer Community Meet Ups

GOALS

- Through inclusive and joyful summer programming, we aim to:
 - Reduce transition anxiety
 - Celebrate our shared history
 - Build a foundation of belonging before the school year begins

TASKS

- Assemble committee to organize towards goal
- Review suggestions shared through these Family Engagement opportunities including programming for youth and adults
- Plan and Implement Summer schedule of community programming to meet goals
- Participating in door-to-door visits to increase family awareness and engagement
- Serve as school ambassadors at community events

Phase I Committee: Grand Opening Ceremony

GOALS

- Through our Grand Opening Ceremony, we aim to
 - Welcome Foster Families to the start of the school year
 - Celebrate our shared history
 - Build on our foundation of belonging
 - Share Foster School with our larger community

TASKS

- Assemble committee to organize towards goal
- Engage with School FACE Liaisons to coordinate with school and district personnel
- Review suggestions shared from Community Proposals for Culture & Heritage
- Plan and Implement Grand Opening Ceremony