



Kathleen & Tim Harney Middle School

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Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Harney Middle School

2026-2027

The administration, staff, and parents of Harney Middle School believe that strong parental involvement is essential to student achievement and overall success. As part of our commitment to fostering a positive school climate, academic excellence, and active family participation, we strive to ensure parents feel welcomed and valued as integral partners in our school community. To support this commitment, we schedule orientation sessions, open houses, and family engagement events throughout the school year. These opportunities empower families to collaborate with school staff, support academic growth, and enhance student engagement. Additionally, instructional and social-emotional resources are regularly updated and accessible on the school website.

To achieve this goal, Harney Middle School will convene an Annual Title 1 meeting, at a time convenient for parents, to evaluate and possibly to revise the Parent and Family Engagement Policy. These meetings were held on May 21, 2026, and August 7, 2026. The plan is also available on Harney's website for parents who are not able to attend either of the scheduled meetings.

Harney Middle School's current Parent and Family Engagement Policy was developed by the administrative team in conjunction with the School Improvement Team, the School Organizational Team, and any parents who were available to meet and offer input, and will be distributed in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents can understand. The Parent and Family Engagement Policy will also be made available to the community via Harney Middle School's website (HarneyMS.org).

The District-wide Survey is accessible to parents via the school website (HarneyMS.org), with notifications provided through ParentLink phone calls and ParentSquare messages. Parents are encouraged to complete the survey during school visits. Survey results are shared with staff, administration, the School Organizational Team, and the broader parent community via the website to help shape our Parent and Family Engagement Policy. Approximately 150 parents participated in the recent survey, representing an increase of 100 respondents from the previous year. Feedback reflects substantial progress in key operational areas: positive parent ratings regarding staff efforts to prevent bullying increased significantly from 58.00% in previous survey cycles to 83.56%, while positive responses regarding student safety at school similarly rose from 58.10% to 83.56%. Harney Middle School strictly enforces CCSD bullying policies and has expanded its support systems by adding School Mental Health Professionals to the staff. Furthermore, a Communities in Schools representative collaborates with our wraparound team, which includes three counselors and two mental health professionals, to support student well-being.

The Educational Involvement Accords and Honor Code are maintained on Infinite Campus and are part of the student registration process required each year. The Accords are used to develop expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family engagement.

Harney Middle School will involve parents in an organized, ongoing and timely way in the planning, review, and improvement of our Strategic Budget, Title 1 program, At Risk English Learning Grant, the Title III Grant, our school performance plan, and our Parent and Family Engagement Policy. This will be done during our monthly School Organizational Team meetings.

Harney Middle School will assist parents with understanding diverse educational topics including, but not limited to, the state's academic content and achievement standards, state and local assessments, the State's proficiency level targets, the school's curriculum, the requirements of Title I, ways to monitor their child's academic progress, and how to work with school staff to improve the achievement of the student. This will be accomplished through the hosting of various parent nights, during parent-teacher conferences, as well as through programs implemented through our school SEL Team. The school will involve parents in Open House, and two or more parent nights – Family Engagement Night and Eighth Grade Parent Night as well as athletics, activities, performances and other school functions, as scheduled. During parent engagement nights and family engagement events, recent survey results—specifically highlighting progress in bullying prevention and student safety, both reaching 83.56%—are shared, discussed, and addressed to collaboratively identify further areas for improvement. Bilingual materials will be available concerning Title I programs, tutoring, and other essential programs which affect parents and students.

Harney Middle School, with the assistance of our parents, will continue a professional development program wherein all staff members will receive training on the importance of regular and consistent parent contact and the importance of working collaboratively with parents for the good of the child, thus enhancing the relationship between students, staff, and parents. A parent meeting will be held in September to inform parents about our Title I Plan and our School Performance Plan; to inform parents about our math program and tutoring opportunities, and to inform parents about additional academic programs at Harney Middle School.

In order to build capacity for both the school and the parents, Harney Middle School will sponsor:

- 1) Telephone messages via ParentLink and Parent Square in both English and Spanish, various notices, up to date information on the school website, and report cards posted in Infinite Campus, conferences, and open house.
- 2) Opportunities for parents to volunteer on campus or at school events.
- 3) A school improvement team, regular School Organizational Team meetings, and special meetings to help formulate decisions which affect the school programs.
- 4) Community collaboration with various businesses and clubs which actively work with students, families and teachers for the health and well-being, as well as educational progress of students.
- 5) Assurances that all information related to school, parent programs, meetings, and other activities is presented to the parents in a format, and to the extent possible, in a language that the parents can understand.

Parents are informed about these programs through ParentLink, Parent Square, the school website, and through direct invitations from the counselors and school mental health professionals. Parents who need support beyond this will be referred to our SEL Team who can connect parents to the appropriate outside agency.

The administration will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with state and community programs via ParentLink, Parent Square, the school website, as well as notifications sent home with students. The school will also conduct other activities to encourage parent contributions in how to implement parent programs, expand parent resources, and encourage parents to more fully participate in the education of their children.

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