



Nate Mack Elementary School

3170 Laurel Avenue Henderson, NV 89014 (702) 799-7760

“Success with Teamwork”

Nancy Heavey
Principal

Kelly Epperson
Assistant Principal

Nate Mack’s Parent and Family Involvement Policy 2016-2017

This policy has been jointly developed and agreed upon by Nate Mack Elementary School and parents of students served in the school pursuant to Title I.

Nate Mack Elementary School convened an annual meeting, at a convenient time for parents to evaluate this policy. This meeting was held on September 14th at 2:30 pm. The school’s parent involvement policy developed by the administration and staff of Nate Mack Elementary will be distributed in an understandable and uniform format and to the extent practicable, in a language parents can understand. The parent involvement policy will also be made available to the community through our school office and website at macksites.weebly.com.

Nate Mack Elementary School will involve parents in an organized, ongoing and timely way in the planning, review and improvement of Title I programs, School Performance Plan, and Parent and Family Engagement Policy. Parents are invited each month to actively participate in these activities through our Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). We meet on the second Wednesday of each month to have an open discussion and work session that centers on school goals, activities, and the Nate Mack community. The meeting is jointly run by administration and parent representatives with staff, parents, and sometimes students, in attendance. Families are also encouraged to attend and participate in our School Organizational Team, which meets on the second Monday of each Month. These meetings are run by an elected chairperson and student/school data is regularly reviewed in order to make budgetary and planning decisions to positively affect the school community.

This year’s parent and family surveys revealed that a vast majority of families are very satisfied with their children’s teachers and learning. They also showed that parents would like to see improved communication and safety measures to provide students and parents with a bully-free, supportive environment where all children can do their best learning. To this end, our students, staff, and parents were provided with training on how to build and maintain a safe and respectful learning environment. Continued lessons and workshops will be scheduled throughout the year.

This year, the Educational Involvement Accords were completed online during online registration. The school’s clerk tracks the online registration completion of students to ensure all students have an Educational Involvement Accord completed in Infinite Campus, through the Parent Portal.

Administration and staff provide assistance to parents, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the state's academic content and achievement standards, state and local assessments, the requirements of Title I, how to monitor their student's academic progress and how to work with school staff to improve the achievement of the student. This information and assistance is provided in a variety of ways, including community meetings and workshops, parent/teacher conferences, websites, and newsletters.

Nate Mack teachers deliver high-quality curriculum and instruction in supportive and effective learning environments which enable students to meet the Nevada Academic Content Standards. Students regularly set personal goals for growth and monitor their own progress with guidance and instruction from their teachers. At school, students learn in a variety of situations including both heterogeneous and ability groups, intensive intervention time, enrichment activities, individualized learning, and cross-aged experiences. Before and after-school academic support is offered in the Learning Lab for students who need assistance with homework and completing assignments. For students who are English Language Learners, the Imagine Learning Lab provides online language support before and after school as well.

Students' progress on the continuum of learning for each grade level standard is reported as letter grades every three weeks. Parents can access the Campus Portal for real-time information regarding student assignments, due dates, attendance, and student mastery level of standards.

Nate Mack offers parent involvement activities in the school that include opportunities for parents to volunteer and be involved in school activities. On September 2, we welcomed new parent volunteers to our Volunteer Orientation. At this workshop, our parent liaisons trained and refreshed this year's volunteers on the copy and die cut machines, provided a tour of our PTO workroom, and outlined the expectations for volunteers who will work with students and teachers in the classroom. Parents are encouraged to utilize the PTO workroom to network with one another while preparing instructional materials.

We believe that the partnership between Mack families and school is strengthened through ongoing communication. Staff ensures that all information related to school and parent programs, meetings and other activities is sent to parents in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand. Families have unlimited access to our school and classroom websites which highlight upcoming events, important school policies and things to do at home to foster student achievement. The school website includes important links to educational websites, health and safety education, grade level standards, classroom websites and email, and much more. Families are encouraged to write, call, or visit at any time to share their ideas and concerns so that we can continue to improve our communication and practices. Parents have online access to teacher email and can call the school at any time. If a teacher receives a message from a parent, it is imperative that the teacher responds to the parent within twenty-four hours.

Parents are utilized as a valuable resource and partner in students' education. Through their input on school committees, parents participate in school decision-making and help set priorities for the year. For example, four years ago parents indicated concern regarding bullying in the schools throughout the district, and beyond. They embraced the Be Kind Foundation and helped support the school's efforts to spread good citizenship by rewarding

acts of kindness by giving away wristbands to students “caught being kind.” The program continues to make a positive difference in our school’s climate. Another example of collaboration between Mack staff and families was the ongoing success of the Watch D.O.G.S. (dads of great students) program which has brought over 30 male volunteers into the school. These men are able to assist in classrooms, playground, lunchroom, and throughout the school, providing mentoring and positive male role models for our students.

Each month throughout the year, school administrators work with staff and parent representatives to plan and carry out a special activity to benefit parents, students and the school. Each year’s activities vary, depending on the needs and desires expressed by the school community. Some plans and ideas for this year include the following:

- Regular Morning Coffee Connections with FACES
- Community Fun Run to Take a Stand Against Bullying
- Supporting Literacy at Home
- Helping your Child in Math/Writing
- Nate Mack’s School Performance Framework
- On-line Cyber-Safety
- Exploring Magnet, Select, and Career and Technical Schools,
- Educational Websites that Inspire Students
- Transitioning to Kindergarten
- Family “Mack-ademic” Night focused on Math and Science
- Preparing for Standardized Testing
- Grade Level Music Showcases
- Transitioning to Middle School
- Celebrating your Child’s Academic Success
- Pizza with Pops (Watch Dogs)
- Muffins with Moms and Donuts with Dads

Throughout the year, teachers and staff participate in ongoing professional development activities. With the assistance of parents, administrators educate teachers, pupil service personnel, principals and other staff in: the value and utility of contributions of parents; how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners; implementing and coordinating parent programs; and building ties between parents and the school.

The administration will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with special education programs such as KIDS and Early Childhood, and the Parent Teacher Organization. Our goal is to conduct activities at a variety of times throughout the year to encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children.

Our school embraces the opportunity to work closely with the parents and extended family of our students. It is through shared responsibility and cooperation that we will increase student achievement and school success.