



Nate Mack Elementary School

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“Success through Teamwork”

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Parent and Family Engagement Policy 2018-2019

This Parent and Family Engagement Policy (“Policy”) was developed and agreed upon by Nate Mack Elementary School and the parents of students served in the school. The Policy will be distributed in an understandable, uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents can understand. The Policy will also be made available to the community. Nate Mack Elementary School convened an annual parent meeting on September 24, 2018 at 2:30 p.m. to go over the Title I budget and to review the rights and responsibilities of parents. Books and activities are available for those attending with young children.

Nate Mack Elementary School involves parents in an ongoing and timely manner in the planning, review, and improvement of programs throughout the school, including the Title I Program. Parents are invited each month to actively participate in these activities through our School Organizational Team, which meets monthly on the last Monday of the month. Through the review of school data, this team identifies trends, needs, goals, and action steps to improve student achievement. The team also identifies funding sources and areas for effective spending. They align budgets and other resources to meet the needs of the school, and maximize funds to achieve school goals.

District-Wide Parent Survey results are reviewed by administration and shared with the staff and parents at SOT meetings. With a low participation rate last year, the school is focusing on informing and encouraging parents to take the time and complete this year’s survey. Ways of communicating that to parents have been through the school website and with ParentLink messages. A computer lab was open during Parent/Student/Teacher Academic Planning Time, and there are computers always available in the front office.

The Educational Involvement Accord is completed 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. The Accord is reviewed as needed at parent conferences.

Administration and staff provide assistance to parents in understanding such topics as the state’s curriculum 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 each 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 strive to deliver high-quality instruction in supportive learning environments, enabling students to meet and exceed 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.

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

We recognize that attendance at school is a necessity if students are to achieve to their fullest potential. Pursuant to Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 392.040, students between the ages of 7 and 18 must enroll and attend school for the entire time the school is in session. Students who are 6 years of age must attend school, if enrolled, for the entire time the class in which they are enrolled is in session. Our school personnel works closely with parents to encourage students come to school, on time, ready to learn.

Nate Mack invites families to be involved in the school through many volunteer opportunities. On August 17, we welcomed new parent volunteers to our Volunteer Orientation workshop, where our parent liaison trained and refreshed this year's volunteers on how to effectively assist students and staff while on campus and how to use the copy and die cut machines. We also 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.

The partnership between Nate Mack families and the 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/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, every effort is made to respond within twenty-four hours.

Parents are a valuable resource and partner in students' education. Through input on school committees, parents participate in school decision-making and help set priorities for the year. For example, last year, when parents indicated concern over parking traffic and student safety, the school staff implemented a kiss and drop procedure to enable families to bring their children to school and pick them up without parking. Additionally, when the parents identified confusion about school progressive discipline procedures, the administration re-designed their citation and office referral procedures and communicated the changes clearly in the Student-Parent Handbook.

Each month throughout the school year, Nate Mack administrators work with staff and PTO to plan and carry out special activities to benefit parents, students and the community. 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:

- Donuts with Dads (Watch Dogs)
- Spaghetti Dinner and Bingo Night
- St. Jude 1K and 5K for a Cure Event
- Fall "State of the School" Event
- Monthly Parenting Workshops through FACES
 - Growth Mindset
 - Language Development
 - Attendance Matters
 - Breaking it Down: Advanced Multiplication Strategies
 - Preparing for Standardized Testing
 - 100 Ways to Raise a Writer (PK-1)
 - Just Write! Daily Writing (2-5)
 - Comprehension
 - Raising a Digital Learner
 - Transitions in Education: Preparing for Middle School
- Run, Walk, and Roll Against Bullying (1K, 5K)
- Harvest Festival
- Turkey Trot
- Movie Nights
- Family STEM Night
- Weekly Running Club
- Celebrating your Child's Academic Success
- Pizza with Pops and Muffins with Moms
- Multicultural Night
- And more, as desired

Throughout the year, teachers and staff participate in ongoing professional development activities to promote positive partnerships with parents. These development activities may include topics such as understanding the value and utility of contributions of parents; how to reach out, communicate, and work with parents as equal partners; implementing and coordinating parent programs; and building ties between parents and the school.

The Nate Mack 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. ParentLink calls are made and information is posted on our website (macksites.weebly.com).

Ultimately, the staff and administration at Nate Mack Elementary 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.