Nate Mack Elementary School

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**“Success with Teamwork”**

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**Parent and Family Engagement Policy**

**2017-2018**

This Parent and Family Engagement Policy (“Policy”) was 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 a meeting on September 13,2017 at 2:30 p.m. to discuss and evaluate the Policy. At our State of the School event on November 2, 2017, this policy was distributed in an understandable, uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents can understand. The Policy was also available to the community in the school office and on our school’s website.

Nate Mack Elementary School involves parents in an ongoing and timely manner in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs. Parents are invited each month to actively participate in these activities through our Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), which meets on the second Wednesday of each month for discussion on school goals, activities, and the Nate Mack community. The meeting is run by parent representatives with administration, staff, parents, and sometimes students in attendance.

This year, the Educational Involvement Accords were 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.

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 deliver high-quality instruction in supportive 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. 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 after school.

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.

Nate Mack invites families to be involved in the school, including many volunteer opportunities. On August 25, 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, available services at school, 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, 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. We’ve also provided student lessons and parent training as well as community outreach through the Rock and Roll Against Bullying walk at UNLV. Another example of collaboration between Nate Mack staff and families is the ongoing success of the Watch D.O.G.S. (dads of great students) program, which has brought over 40 male volunteers into the school. These men assist throughout the school providing mentoring and positive male role models for our students.

Each month throughout the school year, Nate Mack administrators work with staff and parent representatives 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:

* Fall “State of the School” Event
* Monthly parenting classes through FACES
* Literacy and Math Workshops
* Harvest Festival
* Turkey Trot
* Movie Nights
* Family STEM Night
* Weekly Running Club
* Supporting Literacy at Home Class
* Helping your Child in Math/Writing Classes
* Nate Mack’s School Performance Framework Overview
* On-line Cyber-Safety Class
* Family “Mack-ademic” Night focused on Science and Engineering
* Preparing for Standardized Testing Class
* Grade Level Music Showcases
* Transitioning to Middle School Workshop
* Celebrating your Child’s Academic Success Assemblies
* Pizza with Pops and Donuts with Dads (Watch Dogs)

Throughout the year, teachers and staff participate in ongoing professional development activities, and with the assistance of parents, administrators educate teachers, pupil service personnel, and other staff. These development activities 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.

Ultimately, the staff and administration at Nate Mack Elementary School embraces the opportunity to have ongoing two-way communication and 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.