

## **2021-2022 SCHOOL PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN**

**SCHOOL:** Crestwood Elementary School (North Little Rock School District)

**FACILITATOR:** Lori Hart

**PLAN REVIEW/REVISION DATE:** May 11, 2021

**DISTRICT LEVEL REVIEWER:** Crystal Barker, Parent and Family Engagement, VIPS Facilitator (NLRSD)

**DISTRICT LEVEL APPROVAL DATE:** TBD

### **PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS, ROLE:**

Lori Hart, Parent Facilitator

Amy Friedman, Parent/PTA President

Natalie George, Parent

Jaime Harrell, Parent

Llahoma Jackson, Parent

Kat Jendrejas, Parent

Hailey Lew, Parent

Lauren Morris, Parent

Megan Perry, Parent

Kelly Risner, Parent

Amy Webb, Parent

Amy Burks, Multi-Classroom Leader

Bridgette Caskey, Teacher

Summer Helmbeck, Teacher

Taylor Thompson, Teacher

Brandy Yeoman, Assistant Principal

Connie Bamburg, Principal

## **1. Jointly Developed**

**Describe/list how parents will be involved in the development of the school parent and family engagement plan and how parents will be involved in the planning, review, and improvement of parent and family engagement programs.**

**A.** The school has a Parent Involvement Committee made up of parents, teachers, and school administrators. The purpose of this committee is to formulate our school's Parent Involvement Plan and to regularly evaluate this plan to determine its effectiveness.

**B.** Crestwood conducts regular PTA meetings (either face-to-face or virtually) and offers parents and families many opportunities to join and become involved, including booths at the Open House Bazaar, notes in student folders, and signage. Amy Friedman, 771-8190

**C.** In an effort to engage parents in the evaluation of the parental involvement efforts, the school will ask parents to fill out a parent interest survey after selected events and/or at the end of the year to find out their interest in and evaluation of parent involvement plans and activities.

Results of the surveys will be used to evaluate the effectiveness and popularity of programs and meetings. While most of the survey is multiple choice, parents do have the opportunity to write concerns, praises, or suggestions. School staff and parent involvement committee members will take all of the combined information into consideration when planning for the year. Popular programs can be improved upon and those activities that proved unsuccessful or unattended can be dropped or adjusted. Parent input is used to guide the activities, training sessions, meetings, and events. Connie Bamburg, 771-8190

**D.** The results of the parent interest surveys will be used to plan and adjust the Parent Involvement Plan for the following year. Questions dealing with communication, satisfaction, concerns and recommendations will be included. The survey will be available online and sent home as a paper copy in Friday folders. The school will tally and compile results and use them in creating activities and education and communication methods for the next school year. In addition to the parent interest surveys, there is ongoing communication with parents through email and Facebook. Parents are encouraged to share suggestions and concerns, and adjustments are made as needed based on feedback. Lori Hart, 771-8190

## **2. Annual Title I Meeting**

**Describe/List when the school will hold the Annual Title I meeting to inform parents of the requirements of Title I and the school's participation as well as the parents' rights to be involved. The Annual Title I meeting should not be used to ask for parent input, but provided as an opportunity to disseminate information and distribute copies of the revised parents and family engagement policy.**

Since we are not a Title I school, we are not required to hold a Title I meeting.

### **3. Communications**

**Describe/list how the parent and family engagement policy will be distributed to parents and how the school is going to communicate with parents including information about how the school will provide information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities to parents in a format, to the extent practicable, and in a language that parents can understand.**

According to previous parent surveys, sixty-six percent of our parents prefer communication through email, and in addition to email, Crestwood uses several different ways to communicate with their parents on a regular basis.

**A.** Crestwood distributes a weekly newsletter written by a parent and students to inform the school population of upcoming events, awards and accomplishments, and school and district policies. Natalie George, 771-8190

**B.** Crestwood has a Facebook page that regularly announces information about PTA events, testing, school rules and unexpected events that might alter the regular school day. In addition to the information included on the Facebook page, email blasts are sent out with important information to all parents who have an email address on file. Natalie George/Joy Huff, 771-8190

**C.** Crestwood PTA has set up an email account that allows parents to communicate directly with the PTA regarding any questions/concerns they may have. Natalie George, 771-8190

**D.** Crestwood teachers send home a folder each Friday that contains notes, graded work, and behavior/academic reports. The folders must be signed by a parent or guardian and returned on Monday to ensure that parents received the information. There is also space for parents to make comments or ask questions. Grade Level Teachers, 771-8190

**E.** The school provides interim reports four times per year, a 9-weeks report card four times per year and standardized testing reports once per year. Parents also receive Accelerated Reader reports and can access their child's grades through Eschool. Grade Level Teachers, 771-8190

**F.** Crestwood provides information packets that are sent home during the first two weeks of school. This packet contains information about the school, PTA, volunteer opportunities, and a calendar of events, as well as student information paperwork.

**G.** Crestwood sponsors a Watch Dog Dads Pizza Night to recruit new members to work with the Crestwood Watch Dog Dads program. David McCormick, Joey Piwetz, 771-8190

**H.** Crestwood offers Meet the Teacher Night in August/September. This meeting is either face-to-face or virtual, depending on safety protocols in place at the time of the meeting. This is a 30 minute rotation through each grade that allows the teachers the opportunity to explain their academic expectations, provide information concerning grading, testing, and homework. Parents will be provided an opportunity to join the PTA if they have not already done so. This meet the teacher night also provides an opportunity for parents to ask questions about school/classroom events and procedures. Connie Bamburg, 771-8190

**I.** During selected monthly PTA meetings, different grade levels present a musical program. Before each program, any important information that is pertinent at that particular time is shared with the parents. Connie Bamburg, Lori Hart, 771-8190

**J.** Once a year, Crestwood will host Crestwood Cares. This provides an opportunity for students and parents to participate in a community service project. Connie Bamburg, Amy Friedman, 771-8190

**K.** During February, Crestwood will host a Book Fair and SLAM night for parents and

students. This provides an opportunity to visit with teachers, purchase books, eat together, and participate in activities related to science, literacy, athletics/activities, and math. Connie Bamburg, Amy Friedman, 771-8190

**L.** If the Back to School Nights are held in person, "Information Alley" is set up in the hallway at the main entrance to the school. Some of the information made available pertained to STRIVE, RTI, Health Services, OT/PT, Speech, Dyslexia Services, Scouting, Watch Dog Dads, Growing With Grandparents, Student Council, and Special Classes (music, art, STEAM, PE, library). Lori Hart, 771-8190

**M.** Parent Teacher Conferences are held in September and February. Connie Bamburg, 771-8190

**N.** Crestwood uses signage at the entrance to inform parents of upcoming school events such as carnival night or PTA meetings. Connie Bamburg, 771-8190

**O.** Parents receive information at the beginning of the year offering ways they can contribute to the classroom such as making copies, filing, helping with parties, etc. Grade Level Teachers, 771-8190

**P.** PTA meetings are scheduled for the first Thursday evening of each month. These meetings will take place face-to-face if parents are allowed in the building. This allows parents to participate as their schedule allows. Connie Bamburg, Amy Friedman, 771-8190

**Q.** Teachers contact parents regularly using a variety of means such as in person at drop-off/pick-up time, phone, email, Class Dojo, Remind 101, or Facebook pages. They also send home a weekly newsletter to let parents know what they are studying in class and to provide any necessary information to the parents. Grade Level Teachers, 771-8190

**R.** Crestwood has an updated website and is working to develop a school app in an effort to keep parents more informed about what is going on at our school. Connie Bamburg, 771-8190

**S.** Homeroom parents compile an email list for each class and communicate on a regular basis with parents in an effort to keep them updated on class activities and needs.

**T.** In lieu of face to face meetings, teachers will communicate on a regular basis with parents via ZOOM and Google Meet to make sure parents are well informed about what is going on in our school.

#### **4. School-Parent Compact**

**Describe/list the process the schools will follow to jointly develop with parents a school-parent compact.**

School staff, parents, and students will develop a school-parent-student compact. This compact will outline how parents, school staff, and students share the responsibility for improving student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high academic standards. All stakeholders will sign the compact.

#### **5. Reservation of Funds**

**If the school is allocated a percentage of district Title I funds, describe/list how the school will share with parents the budget for parent and family engagement activities and programs and how parents will be involved in providing input into how the funds are used.**

Crestwood is not a Title I school, therefore we receive no Title I funds.

## **6. Coordination of Services**

**Describe/list how the district and/or school will coordinate with other organizations, business, and community partners to provide additional support and resources to families.**

**A.** Crestwood will host a Fall Fundraiser which not only provides many opportunities to volunteer, but also is a time when parents can connect with community leaders who partner with our school. Connie Bamburg, 771-8190

**B.** Crestwood will partner with the Watershed Project through “Crestwood Cares” to provide needed items for distribution. Parents and students will be given the opportunity to participate in a service project at which time donated items will be put together in care packages. Connie Bamburg, Amy Friedman, 771-8190

**C.** Crestwood now has a book vending machine (which was donated to the school), and our media center specialist will work with community organizations to secure books for the vending machine, which will in turn be provided to our students through an incentive program. Connie Bamburg, Crestwood Media Specialist (TBD), 771-8190

**D.** Community volunteers partner with the school to provide tutoring for selected students who need additional support.

**E.** If visitors are once again allowed in the building, Crestwood has plans to continue our partnership with Tail Waggin’ Tutors to provide support for students by giving them the opportunity to interact with therapy dogs by reading to them.

## **7. Building Capacity of Parents**

**Describe/list activities, such as workshops, conferences, classes, online resources, Academic Parent-Teacher-Team meetings, and any equipment or other materials that may be necessary to support parents in helping their student’s academic success.**

**A.** Parent Teacher conferences are held twice per year in September and February. Connie Bamburg, 771-8190

**B.** Growth Assemblies are held at the end of each semester and parents are invited to attend if visitors are allowed in the building in accordance with safety protocols. The time for these assemblies is alternated between AM and PM in order to increase attendance without causing hardship for those who work during the school day. Connie Bamburg, 771-8190

**C.** In April, Crestwood hosts the Kindergarten Round-up event to meet and greet future kindergarteners and their families. Parents meet teachers, are informed of the available programs and are given a tour of the kindergarten rooms. Connie Bamburg, 771-8190

**D.** Kindergarten and Fifth grade promotion recognizes students who have achieved academic success and parents are invited to share in the celebrations. Connie Bamburg, 771-8190

**E.** Crestwood offers a parent center that includes brochures and pamphlets on a variety of topics including nutrition, counseling, and tutoring services. This area also has a copier, computer, and printer available for parents to use. Connie Bamburg, 771-8190

**F.** Crestwood will advertise available resources (such as parenting books, magazines, and other informative materials regarding responsible parenting) through the school newsletter and in the parent center.

**G.** Other information provided for parents includes the survey for volunteer interest, recommended roles for parent, teacher, student, and school, suggestions on ways to be involved in their children's education, parental involvement activities planned for the current year and how to volunteer to help. Information is also included on methods of communication between parents and teachers. The Parental Involvement Plan for 2021-22 will be available at the Parent/Teacher conferences held in September, and is also available online.

**H.** Crestwood will provide parent resources for social-emotional learning through the Second-Step curriculum which is being utilized throughout the school.

## **8. Building Capacity of School Staff**

**Describe/list activities such as workshops, conferences, trainings, webinars, online resources, and Academic Parent-Teacher-Team meetings that will be used with school staff to build their capacity to work with parents as equal partners. Describe/list methods of parents' assistance for building staff capacity. Describe/list actions the school will take to provide other reasonable support for parents and family engagement activities.**

**A.** The Crestwood staff participates in Parent and Family Engagement training as required by the North Little Rock School District.

**B.** Parents are encouraged to take an active role in providing resources for our classroom teachers through Donors Choose and Amazon Classroom. Both of these programs allow individuals to provide funding for approved classroom projects. Grade Level Teachers, 771-8190

**C.** Crestwood provides volunteer opportunities throughout the year for parents and family members. Beginning with the Open House packet, volunteer sign-ups are sent regularly throughout the year. The Open House packet contains the generic North Little Rock School District Volunteer Form but individual teachers include a sign-up list geared specifically for their needs. Examples of opportunities for classroom helpers are copying, filing, helping with art projects, reading, tutoring, helping with parties, helping with field trips, helping with daily dismissal, and organizing book orders. Parents who cannot help during the school day are given opportunities to do things at home such as prepare artwork pieces, cut out, sort, call in orders, or send snacks or party items. Teachers give a list of materials needed in their classroom to fulfill academic needs and parents can contribute these items if they choose. Grade Level Teachers, 771-8190

**D.** Parents are encouraged to help the PTA in fundraising efforts by participating in community support programs sponsored by Kroger, Office Depot, and Amazon Fundraising. Amy Friedman, 771-8190

## **9. Building Capacity - Discretionary**

**The school parent and family engagement policy/plan may include additional sections describing other discretionary activities that the school, in meaningful consultation with parents, chooses to undertake to build capacity.**

**PLEASE NOTE: The following events will take place as allowed based on safety protocols that are being observed at the scheduled time of the event**

- A.** Crestwood will offer volunteer opportunities throughout the year for parents and family. These include activities such as library volunteers, tutors, Watch Dog Dads, Santa Shop, Growing with Grandparents, all PTA fundraiser events and PTA student award events, as well as information events such as Open House and Kindergarten Round-up. Amy Friedman, 771-8190
- B.** On the first day of school, PTA sponsored a “Boo-Hoo to Yahoo Breakfast” for our kindergarten parents. Amy Friedman, 771-8190
- C.** Crestwood will host Grandparents’ Days in conjunction with our fall and spring Book Fairs. Grandparents are encouraged to come eat lunch with their grandchild and then attend the Book Fair in the library. Crestwood Media Specialist, 771-8190
- D.** Crestwood will host a Veterans’ Day program in November. At this time parents and grandparents who are veterans will have a chance to interact with our students, and will be honored during a special program presented by our students. Angela Hazzard, Lori Hart 771-8190
- E.** Crestwood PTA uses various methods to allow parents to sign up online for volunteer opportunities. Amy Friedman, 771-8190
- F.** Crestwood holds a Field Day in May of each year, which provides many opportunities for parents to volunteer as they plan each of the game booths and then supervise the games as the students rotate through to play during the afternoon. Amy Friedman, 771-8190
- G.** In the spring, Crestwood sponsors a First Responders Lunch, which allows our students and parents to connect with the first responders and local community neighbors in our area, and to thank them for their service to the community. Angela Hazzard, 771-8190
- H.** The Crestwood PTA sponsors “Growing with Grandparents,” which allows students’ grandparents to become involved in volunteer efforts at our school. Linda Derden, 771-8190
- I.** Crestwood presents two major productions each year, one at Christmas and one in the spring. Parents are invited to participate in helping with making costumes, building set pieces, and other aspects of preparation for these productions. Specialty Teachers, 771-8190
- J.** The Crestwood Music/Art Classes hold a Fine Arts Finale at the conclusion of the school year. This evening features art done by Crestwood students, as well as music and dance performances featuring Crestwood students. Lori Hart, Savanna Jenkins, 771-8190
- K.** Fifth grade students will attend an end-of-year activity sponsored by the PTA, and parents are encouraged to attend with their child. An informational meeting about this event is held at the beginning of the school year.
- L.** In an effort to promote reading this year, Crestwood will encourage reading together as a family and will provide parent tips for reading. Crestwood Media Specialist, Amy Friedman, 771-8190
- M.** Watch Dog Dads will participate in a variety of activities aimed at encouraging dads to be involved at the school. These activities include: helping to make sure all volunteers have completed the required background check; helping with morning drop-off; Crestwood Cleanup Days; Dad work days (helping at the school for one day or half day per semester); Donuts with

Dad/Muffins with Moms (done in conjunction with PTA); helping as a monitor during lunch and recess; Classroom Reading. David McCormick, Joey Piwetz, 771-8190