



Mathias
Elementary
School
Parent and
Family
Engagement
Plan
2018-2019

*Charting the Course for the Future...
Where all belong, all learn, and all succeed...*

Mathias Elementary

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<http://www.rogersschools.net>

Parent/Teacher Engagement Definition

Defined by the Mathias Parent and Family Engagement Committee
2018

At Mathias Elementary School, we value Parent and Family Engagement.

As Staff, we strive to involve our parents through a variety of communication options (i.e. behavior logs, weekly classroom newsletters, calls, texts, CHART planners, and social media) that gives parents positive feedback about their child as well as areas for growth. We also ensure that the homework that is assigned is relevant to the classroom learning and that parents are informed about how best to help their child.

As Parents, we strive to communicate with staff about the needs of our child. We should also model strong work ethic by encouraging homework and class work completion, arriving to school/work on time, and encouraging our child to talk about school in a positive manner. Of course, the most important thing a parent can do for our children is to make sure they have shelter, food, clothes, and knowledge that they are loved unconditionally.

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN FOR MATHIAS ELEMENTARY

Parent and Family Engagement Plan Overview

Mathias Elementary recognizes the necessity and value of a strong home/school connection. Families, administrators, teachers, and support staff must work together as a team to support high standards for all students. Our Parent and Family Engagement Plan is comprehensive and coordinated in nature. The program involves parents at all grade levels in a variety of roles.

The Mathias Parent and Family Engagement Plan include, but is not limited to, the following:

- an annual meeting at a convenient time to inform parents of the school's involvement in Title I, Part A programs and explain the Title I, Part A requirements and the right of parents to be involved in those programs
- the involvement of parents in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs including the planning, review, and improvement of the school parental involvement policy and the joint development of the school-wide program plan;
- meetings offered at flexible times such as in the morning or the evening;
- information shared in a timely manner and to the extent possible in a language the family can understand concerning
 - a. curriculum descriptions and explanation,
 - b. the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and
 - c. the proficiency levels students are expected to meet, and
- opportunities for regular meetings at which parents can suggest and participate in the decisions relating to their child's education.

In order to allow all parents including parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children the full opportunity to participate in their child's education, Mathias will

- to the extent possible-provide information in a language and format that parents understand,
- provide assistance to parents of children served by the school in understanding topics such as
 - State's academic content standards,

- State academic achievement standards,
 - the requirements of Title 1,
 - how to work with educators to improve the achievement of their child, and
 - how to monitor their child's progress.
- provide materials and training to help parents work with their child to improve their child's achievement such as a "Did You Know..." section in our school newsletter.
- educate staff
 - in the value and importance of parent contributions,
 - ways in which to communicate more effectively with parents, and
 - how to build the appropriate ties between parents and the school.
- coordinate and integrate-to the extent possible-parental engagement programs and activities with groups such as, but not limited to, Head Start, Rogers Pre-School Programs, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, and
- provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request.

The Parent and Family Engagement Plan is made available to parents and local community members at the beginning of each school year, during the enrollment process, or anytime upon request. The Mathias Parent and Family Engagement Plan is revisited in the spring of each school year by a committee of parents, administrators, teachers, and support staff. Should the Parent and Family Engagement Plan be unsatisfactory to parents, parents have the opportunity to submit any comments to the school, the Mathias Parent and Family Engagement Committee, and school surveys. To the extent possible, responses to concerns and comments will be addressed as quickly as possible.

Mathias Parent and Family Engagement Goals

Mathias Elementary School welcomes parents to become a partner in their child's education. The staff of Mathias Elementary believes that only by working together can we help our students achieve the high academic standards set forth by the Arkansas Department of Education.

The goals of Mathias Parent and Family Engagement Plan is:

- to increase involvement of parents and community members,
- to increase parental awareness of grade-level expectations
- to foster parents' responsibility and support for their child's learning including, but not limited to, a Title I Parent/Guardian Engagement Compact.
- to provide frequent communication with parents on their child's progress,
- to address specific academic needs as identified in the ACSIP,
- to provide opportunities for parents to volunteer and participate,
- to provide assistance to parents in such areas as parenting skills, homework, communication with teachers, etc.,
- to provide flexible conference times to accommodate working parents, and
- to inform parents of available community resources.

With these goals in mind, Mathias Elementary developed a Parent and Family Engagement Plan that outlines ways in which parents are encouraged to share the responsibility for their child's education. The Parent and Family Engagement Plan meet the requirements as set forth in Act 307 of 2007 and Act 397 of 2009.

Parent and Family Engagement Committee

One requirement of the Parent and Family Engagement Plan is to provide parents the opportunity to participate in all aspects of the Parent and Family Engagement Plan and the Arkansas Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (ACSIP). In the Rogers School District, parents are involved in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs both at the district and school building level. Mathias provides all parents the opportunity to participate in Parent Surveys taken throughout the school year. These surveys allow the Mathias Parent and Family Engagement Committee to gain important insight into the issues that Mathias Elementary parents would like to see addressed within the Parent and Family Engagement Plan. Because Mathias Elementary School understands that language issues may be a barrier to Parent and Family Engagement, surveys are available in both English and Spanish.

Parents volunteer to serve on the Parent and Family Engagement Committee. The committee is a representation of the school's population. Mathias Elementary School understands that language issues may be a barrier to Parent and Family Engagement, translators are available at meetings. Each fall, the Mathias Parent and Family Engagement Committee revisits the current plan and addresses any concerns as identified in the ACSIP and any budget decisions. In the spring, the Mathias Parent and Family Engagement Committee revisit the current plan and any concerns that the survey data revealed. The Committee revises the Parent and Family Engagement Plan to meet the needs of the school. The revised Mathias Parent and Family Engagement Plan is then prepared for distribution in each child's Informational Packet in the fall of the following school year. The Mathias Parent and Family Engagement Plan is available throughout the year, at the time of registration, or at any time upon request. Because Mathias Elementary School understands that language issues may be a barrier to Parent and Family Engagement, the Mathias Parent and Family Engagement Plan is available in both English and Spanish.

Annual Title 1 Meeting

Another requirement of the Parent and Family Engagement Plan is that each school hold an annual meeting for parents. The Mathias Annual Title 1 Meeting, Open House, is held in the fall of each school year. The school principal and PTO President speak during the welcoming session. Teacher sessions allow teachers the opportunity to present parent information. The topics of the Title I Annual Meeting include, but are not limited to, the following:

(As required by Act 307 of 2007)

- what students will be learning (*Quarterly Expectations, Standards Based Report Card, Power Standards*),
- how students will be assessed both at the state and local level,
- what parents should expect for their child's education,
- ways parents can assist in their child's education,

(As required by Act 397 of 2009)

- provide instruction on how to incorporate developmentally appropriate learning activities in the home environment including but not limited to,
 - monthly parent newsletters with tips for parents,
 - classroom newsletters,
 - PTO newsletters,
 - Math and Literacy Nights, and
 - Family Resource Center
 - Websites

(As required by Federal guidelines)

- inform parents that Mathias is a school-wide Title 1 school
 - the purpose of Title I
 - an overview of Title I
 - Parent Rights Under Title I
 - Parent/School Compact
 - Parent and Family Engagement Committee
 - Use of Parent and Family Engagement Funds
- School Improvement Status
 - Current Test Results
 - AYP Status

- strategies for parents to monitor
 - a child's progress;
 - Parent/Teacher Conferences
 - standards, and
 - academic assessments
 - ADE Website
 - Rogers Website
 - Center for Effective Parenting
- materials and training provided as needed to assist parents to work with their children to improve academic achievement, and
- opportunities for Parent and Family Engagement such as but not limited to
 - homeroom parent,
 - field trips,
 - special projects,
 - PTO, and
 - volunteer sign up.

(As required by Mathias)

- describe your class, procedures including but not limited to
 - homework,
 - testing,
 - discipline,
- other pertinent information, and
- identify times during the day you are available for conferences or another form of two way communication

Our Parents Make a Difference Night and Annual Title 1 Meeting (Report to the Public) for the 2018-2019 school year is scheduled for _____ from 5:00-6:30 pm. Please consider joining us!

Parent-School Communication

Communication with parents is another requirement of the Parent and Family Engagement Plan. The Mathias Parent and Family Engagement Committee and Mathias Elementary Staff believe that in order for parent/teacher communication to be beneficial it should be open, two-way, and to the extent possible, in a language and format that the parent can understand. It is believed that only through effective communication can each child's success be assured. Parents are encouraged to call the school to speak with their child's teacher should they have any questions or concerns. Parents are also welcomed to set up a time for a conference at which teachers can give their undivided attention to the parent's concerns and questions. Phone and e-mail contact information is located at the back of the Parent and Family Engagement Plan .

Parent/Teacher Conferences are offered twice during each school year. These conferences are important times for teacher and parents to share the responsibility to make decisions concerning each child's education. During these conferences, teachers will share information concerning each child's progress towards meeting the State's high academic standards and address any specific academic needs their child may have. Assessments to measure progress and the level at which proficiency is expected will also be shared during this meeting. Academic Improvement Plans/Intensive Reading Improvement Plans will be addressed as needed. These conferences are offered at flexible times in order to accommodate as many parents as possible.

Other forms of communication available to Mathias parents include but are not limited to

- Classroom Newsletters,
- School Newsletters,
- Website,
- Mathias Parent and Family Engagement Plan
- Mathias Student Handbook,

- Announcements,
- Marquee,
- Planners,
- ParentLink Automated Phone Messaging System,
- CHART Nightly Notebooks, and
- Monthly PTO Newsletters.

Opportunities for Parent and Family Engagement

Offering parents the opportunity to become a partner in their child's education is a required element of the Parent and Family Engagement Plan. Parents are encouraged to become involved in our school and their child's education by taking part in a variety of opportunities. Many activities are planned throughout the school year to encourage parental involvement. These can be found on the school calendar, in monthly PTO newsletters, and special announcement fliers. Some of these activities include:

- Kindergarten Parent Orientation,
- Monthly Mighty Mariner Assemblies
- Parent Teacher Organization activities,
- Field trips,
- Reading to and sharing career experiences in the classrooms, and
- Math and/or Literacy Nights at each grade level .

If a parent is unable to attend some of these school events, there are many ways in which they can still be actively involved in their child's education. Examples of this include:

- reading to your child,
- teaching moral values,
- monitoring what is watched on television,
- helping with homework, and
- assisting teachers by helping with tasks that can be completed at home such as cutting or compiling.

Parents are encouraged to complete the Volunteer PTO Survey that is distributed at the beginning of the year in order to identify the ways in which their interest, time, and talents might benefit our Mathias students. Contact the Mathias school office throughout the year if you need a copy of this survey.

Parent Resources and Training

All parents are also encouraged to be aware of the many resources available to help their child. We, at Mathias Elementary recognize that community resources strengthen school programs, family practices, and student learning. Community resources may included but are not limited to; The Rogers Activity Center, The Boys and Girls Club of Rogers, Crystal Bridges, and the Rogers' Historical Museum. One such resource is the Internet. Parents might want to check out these valuable websites...

- Rogers Public School's Main Website: www.rogersschools.net
- Mathias Elementary School's Main Website: www.rogersschools.net
- Arkansas Department of Education: www.arkansased.org
- Arkansas State Parent Information and Resource Center: www.parenting-ed.org
- Parent Teacher Organization: www.ptotoday.com
- A list of digital specific help is also available from your child's teacher and the office.

Another resource available to parents is the MATHIAS FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER. We have instructional materials designed to assist parents in working with their child at home. We also have a large selection of informational materials concerning common developmental topics and other programs available to Mathias parents such as Head Start and HIPPIY. Pamphlets and other informational fliers are available on our cafeteria's west wall. Please feel free to visit this collection for helpful information. Our parent facilitator, Kim Dixon, will be available to help you in any way necessary. You are welcome to contact her at the school by calling 479.631.3530 or via e-mail at kdixon@rps.k12.ar.us.

Parent Training Nights are another means by which parents can be active in their child's education. These trainings are offered by a variety of resources including:

- Mathias Elementary School
 - Grade Level Parent Nights with a focus on Literacy and/or Math
 - Open House
 - Orientations
- Rogers School District

- REACH Department
- English as a Second Language Department
- Special Education Department
- Community Groups
 - Jones Center
 - Center for Effective Parenting
 - Local Support Groups
 - Northwest Arkansas Community College

Staff Professional Development

An important requirement of the Parent and Family Engagement Plan includes the component of continued staff development in the area of Parent and Family Engagement. Annual training will be held with topics such as ways to communicate effectively with parents, methods by which parents can become more involved in the school, and how to bridge the home-school connection. It is the goal of the Mathias Parent and Family Engagement Committee for professional development to provide staff with the necessary skills needed to partner with all parents in order to assure each child's academic success.

The Mathias School-Parent Compact

The staff of Mathias Elementary School believes that high student academic achievement is a shared responsibility of our staff as well as parents of our students. In order to show that shared responsibility, Mathias Elementary School in conjunction with the Mathias Parent/Teacher Organization consisting of parents of students participating in the Title 1 program developed a School-Parent Compact that is reviewed annually. This Compact identifies the activities of the parents, entire school staff, and the students of Mathias Elementary School to develop a partnership to help our students achieve the State's high academic standards. Because Mathias Elementary School understands that language issues may be a barrier to Parent and Family Engagement, the Mathias Parent School Compact is available in both English and Spanish.

The Mathias Elementary School-Parent Compact describes,

- the schools responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive, effective learning environment that supports students in our school to meet the State's academic achievement standards;
- the way parents can be responsible for supporting their child's learning;
- The importance of communication between teachers and parents on an on-going basis through
 - parent-teacher conferences at least annually, during which the Compact will be discussed as it relates to their specific child's Achievement;
 - frequent reports to parents on their child's progress;
 - reasonable access to staff;
 - opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class; and
 - observation of classroom activities.

PARENT-SCHOOL COMPACT

It is our goal to engage schools and parents as full-time partners in the education of young people in a meaningful and productive way. This year we will be implementing a Parent-School Compact so that each participant's role is clearly defined. The mutual responsibilities of parents and schools are to support children in attaining high standards.

Please take advantage of the opportunity to review the Parent-School Compact information. Your willingness to participate in this compact will determine the growth of your child's educational experience. Your signature, along with your child's signature, and date are required on this form. Please return this to your child's teacher.

Feel free to conference with your child's teacher or the school principal concerning the compact. We want to work with you in supporting your child's educational growth and success.

TITLE I PARENT/GUARDIAN ENGAGEMENT COMPACT

Believing that high student performance is a shared responsibility, Mathias Elementary School and the parents/guardians of _____ agree to enter into this Compact:

THE SCHOOL WILL:

- _____ Provide a high quality curriculum and instruction and relevant homework that will enable participating children, with the involvement of parents/guardians, to meet student performance standards set forth by the State of Arkansas for all students;
- _____ Hold an annual meeting for parents/guardians of eligible children to notify them of their child's eligibility to participate in the program, explain the Title I program, this Compact and inform them of the importance of their involvement with their child;
- _____ Offer a flexible number of meetings (a.m. and p.m.) to provide timely information and training for parents/guardians in order to help them become effective partners in their child's learning;
- _____ Provide frequent reports allowing two-way communication with parents/guardians on proficiency levels children are expected to meet and their child's progress toward meeting State standards.
- _____ Provide parents reasonable access to staff by school email, opportunities to meet during teacher planning time, during parent/teacher conferences, or by appointment as requested by parents/guardians;
- _____ Provide parents opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class, and to observe classroom activities as requested by parent and/or teacher;
- _____ Provide timely responses to parents'/guardians' recommendations.

THE PARENTS/GUARDIANS WILL:

- _____ Ensure prompt and regular school attendance because your child is missing learning when they are absent or tardy. Breakfast in the Classroom starts our day together as a school family. Your child will not want to miss this relationship building opportunity with teachers and classmates.
- _____ Read and respond to communications from the school
- _____ Ensure your child completes their homework and reads every night.
- _____ Have a routine that allows your child to develop healthy habits such as at least eight hours of sleep, physical exercise every day, monitoring television programs, video games, internet, and social media time in order to support your child's learning as the most important thing for them.

SIGNED:

Principal

Parent/Guardian

Teacher

Please return to school

Contact Information

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