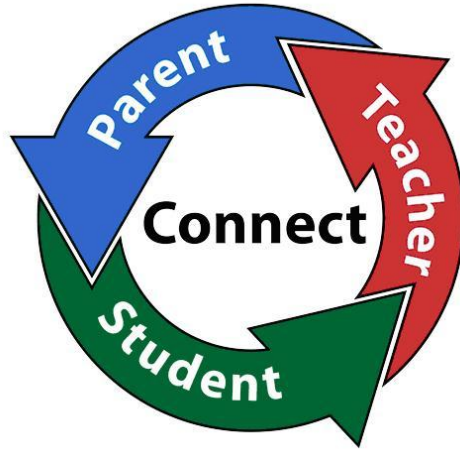


# Engaging Diverse Families: All Means All



**Division of Student, Family, and School Service  
Office of Student and Family Support and Engagement**

September 15, 2018 for MCCPTA



MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

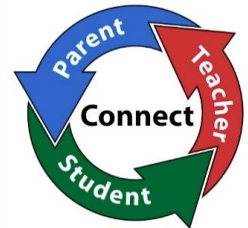
# Introductions...Start Relationships

- **Find a partner.**
- **Share your name and something you like to do.**
- **Strike a pose or do a movement to demonstrate the thing you like to do (outside of work and PTA).**
- **Form a circle.**
- **Introduce your partner by saying their name and one word for what they like to do (with the pose or movement).**



# Outcomes

- **Connect** the MCPS strategic priorities to effective family engagement to student learning,
- **Identify** principles of family engagement consistent with research, and BOE Policy,
- **Share** and discuss ideas to understand engaging underserved families and building relationships and partnerships,
- **Enjoy** networking with colleagues.



# Family Engagement Core Beliefs



## Core Belief 1

All parents have dreams for their children and want the best for them.

## Core Belief 2

All parents have the capacity to support their children's learning.

## Core Belief 3

Parents and school staff should be equal partners.

## Core Belief 4

The responsibility for building partnerships between home and school rests primarily with school staff.

Adapted from

"Beyond the Bake Sale"

"The Essential Guide to Family-School Partnerships"



MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# MCPS Strategic Priorities



- **REMOVE** cultural or linguistic barriers that may prevent families from engaging with their children's education in partnership.
- **FACILITATE TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION** parents, students, employees, and community members using a wide array of tools to engage and communicate information.

# MCPS Family Engagement Standards

- Welcoming All Families
- Communicating Effectively
- Supporting Student Success
- Speaking Up for Children
- Sharing Power
- Collaborating with the Community

(**MCPS Policy ABC**, MSDE Pre-K–12 Family Engagement Framework and PTA Standards)

[Policy ABC](#)

[Regulation ABC-RA](#)



# **The Research – Benefits of Family Engagement**

When families & schools partner, students:

- Attend school regularly
- Earn higher grades and test scores
- Have better social skills
- Show improved behavior
- Graduate from high school
- Go on to postsecondary education and careers.

And it improves school climate!



# Reflect and Share

- **Think about a student who is struggling in school.**
- **What dreams do you think the student has and the parent has for this student?**
- **What are possible challenges facing this student and his or her family?**



# Barriers to Parents Being Involved at School

- **Language differences**
- **Cultural perceptions and misperceptions**
- **Time (work schedules and availability)**
- **Transportation**
- **Immigration issues**
- **No internet or computer at home**
- **Feeling not welcome at school**
- **Fear of being judged**
- **Information overload**
- **Basic needs and problems at home**
- **Historic perception of the school**





# Community Circles



Use the talking piece to move the conversation so everyone has the opportunity to speak.

## Question 1

How do you define parent engagement?



# Family Engagement Defined



**The systematic inclusion of families in activities at school that promote student learning and physical, social and emotional development.**

Adapted from the U.S. Dept. of Education and U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services  
Joint Policy Statement on Family Engagement, 2016



# Community Circles



Use the talking piece to move the conversation so everyone has the opportunity to speak.

## Question 2

**Share something that worked successfully in your child's school to engage diverse families?**





# Ideas

- Hold meetings in community centers or apartment complexes
- Match parents to parents - help with transportation to meetings
- Create phone trees - to help with communication
- Personally invite parents who could be leaders and can help with interpretation, translation
- Plan for how parents are welcomed to meetings



**What is the number one factor for creating and maintaining successful Family-School partnerships?**

# Relationships



**Treat people how you want to be treated.**

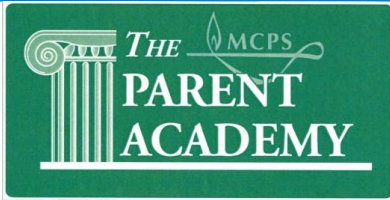
# How we can help?

## Schools with a Parent Community Coordinator (PCC)

- 59 elementary schools, based on FARMS rates
- 22 secondary schools with METS/ESOL programs
- Systemwide requests for support for Special Education and school issues in English and the following foreign languages:

Amharic, Arabic, Chinese, French, Korean,  
Portuguese, Spanish, Vietnamese





- We can provide and connect you with speakers for PTA meetings on a variety of topics
- Contact the Division of Student, Family, and School Services office at 240-314-4860 or e-mail  
  
Denise\_Bracalilly-Stultz@mcpsmd.org  
Danielle\_Wilson\_Saddler@mcpdmd.org
- <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/parentacademy/>  
(from MCPS website - type Parent Academy in search box)



**A**sk questions

**D**o keep an open mind

**V**isit the school, often

**O**rganize your thoughts

**C**ool, calm, collected

**A**ctive listening

**T**ake notes

**E**ncourage children to respectfully speak up for themselves



# **Lead with your heart!**



**Everyday we have the opportunity  
to make an impact.  
No matter how great or how small.  
YOU can make a difference.**

