

Holliday Elementary

Pre-Kindergarten Family Engagement Plan

Holliday Elementary School is committed to the goal of providing quality education for every child in the district. Our mission is to develop self-reliant, self-confident, life-long learners who contribute positively to society. To do so, we will establish partnerships with parents and the community. We know that parents play an extremely important role throughout the child's formal academic career.

This family engagement plan is developed to outline the efforts made toward building the school's and parents' capacity for parental involvement in the pre-kindergarten setting.

#1 Family-to-Family Support

Parents and families are welcome in the building and classroom, and parents are encouraged to participate as volunteers to become an active part of their child's school day.

Parents are encouraged to communicate with our Pre-K teacher through a variety of methods about suggestions for field trips and other activities that include families.

We host a Pre-K parent meeting at the beginning of each year to give parents important information about the school year, and to provide the opportunity for families to get to know one another on an informal basis at the beginning of the school year.

Our Pre-K program also participates in school-wide events to encourage families to come together, such as Open House and the Christmas Stroll.

#2 Establish a Network of Community Resources

A Holliday Community Resource Guide has been assembled by school staff and is distributed to each family enrolled in Pre-K at the beginning of the school year. The resource guide is updated annually and provides names, addresses, and phone numbers for service agencies and organizations in the local community. Also included in the resource guide is a list of free/low-cost recreational options in the community.

Each year, we also work with the local library to assist families in getting and using a library card.

#3 Increase Family Participation in Decision-Making

Holliday Elementary involves parents in program decision making to support all areas of their child's development. Parents are encouraged to serve on a variety of committees, such as the School Health Advisory Council and Campus Improvement Committee. Parents are also encouraged to become volunteers in many capacities throughout the program, such as working on-on-one with students, planning class parties, planning other fun events/activities such as field trips.

Parents are asked to complete an intake questionnaire about their child at the beginning of each school year so that teachers can learn about the children in their classroom from their parents' perspective and begin some mutual goal setting with each individual family.

Parents are also given a survey each year in order to gather information about parent educational needs, feedback about our program, and suggestions for improvement.

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#4 Equip Families with Tools to Enhance and Extend Learning

We aim to provide parents with the tools they need to enhance their skills and knowledge on age appropriate teaching and techniques. During parent meetings and conferences, teachers share assessment results with parents, discuss the value of reading with their child, and encourage parents to do so. A classroom calendar is sent home containing important school and classroom events. Parents are invited to attend parent workshops on topics such as math or reading skills. Topics are based on families' needs as gathered by surveys and parent feedback.

We use resources on families.naeyc.org to send home monthly research-based, family-friendly written information on child development topics such as literacy and play. We also help connect parents to other resources to help them boost their child's development, such as helping them set up weekly brain building tips via recurring texts through Vroom. At the beginning of each year, we assist parents in setting up accounts on CLI Engage and show them how to access the CIRCLE Activity Collection for Families and we email activities to parents and guardians directly through CLI Engage.

#5 Developing Staff Skills in Evidence-Based Practices that Support Families in Meeting their Children's Learning Benchmarks

Pre-K staff are trained each year in practices that support families and children such as abuse and neglect awareness and other mental health topics.

#6 Evaluate Family Engagement Efforts and Using Evaluations for Continuous Improvement

Each year, we evaluate our Pre-K program through a variety of assessments. We use parent surveys to request feedback on the effectiveness of the prekindergarten experience for their child and family. We also incorporate goals related to family engagement into the program's planning initiatives. We also track parent involvement by monitoring attendance rates at parent events such as meetings, conferences, and workshops.

Conclusion

Our approach to fostering family engagement at Holliday Elementary is the belief that families are their child's first and most important teacher. It is our goal to deliver this message to parents throughout the school year and to provide a variety of opportunities for parents to join us in creating a quality education for each child. For more information on opportunities described in this plan, please contact the Pre-K teacher at jill.mccloskey@hollidayisd.net or the principal at 940-586-1986 or tara.kirkland@hollidayisd.net.