

John A Johnson Achievement Plus Elementary (JAJ)

2020-21 Family Engagement Plan

John A. Johnson is a collaborative community committed to the academic success of all scholars. Families are welcomed and valued as partners in their scholar’s education.

The Family Engagement Plan (FEP) is organized into four impact areas. We will be working together this year to build positive and goal-oriented relationships in each area. Families and staff at school developed this plan together.

Welcoming Environment	
<p>Our school has staff member(s) available for families to discuss this plan and ask questions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Family, Partner, and Community Liaison: J.T. Harney
<p>Our school communicates with families in many ways.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Student work and important papers/flyers come home each week in a Thursday Folder. ▪ JAJ sends home a school newsletter (Johnson Journal) monthly. In addition to information about upcoming events, a list of important dates, and a greeting from the Principal, the Johnson Journal often contains highlights from our Partners with resources that can help families with food, housing, and medical resources. It also provides information on how parents can help their child at home and encourages families to take advantage of opportunities to engage and partner with the school. ▪ Classrooms send home biweekly newsletters with the standards students are working on at that time. They also inform parents of upcoming field trips, and other opportunities for parents to become more engaged with school. ▪ JAJ uses Connect Ed and the Remind app in English, Hmong and Spanish, to inform parents about upcoming events and to communicate any time sensitive information. ▪ The goal at JAJ is to respond to every phone call, email, or note within 48 hours. ▪ JAJ uses seesaw and schoology to communicate and connect with families about student work.
<p>The achievement gap, or rather the “opportunity gap,” between students of color and white students in Saint Paul Public Schools is unacceptable. Our school is working to change practices and systems by identifying the barriers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ For more about our work on racial equity, contact the principal: Elizabeth Cherek, elizabethcherek@spps.org (651) 744-4792.

<p>that make it harder for students of color to succeed and for their families to support their learning.</p>	
<p>Transitions between schools can be challenging, and we work to help families as their children start and leave our school.</p>	<p>For new students and families, we support the transition by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Before school begins each year, we offer an open house (meet the teacher night) for new and returning families to meet their child’s teacher and other staff as well as their peers and the families of their peers. ▪ Encouraging all families to attend a family night event to meet other families and staff. ▪ Providing tours for families throughout the year per their request. ▪ Holding space during Pre-K/Kindergarten registration night in the Spring to welcome new families including activities and tours of the school. ▪ PK/K families will be informed about our YMCA childcare program. <p>For students and families moving to the next school in their pathway, we support the transition by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inviting 5th grade students to Washington for their <i>Fit to Run</i> event and middle school tour. ▪ Middle school simulation for our 5th grade students coordinated by the counselor. ▪ Encouraging families to visit and tour their top options for middle school.

<p align="center">Family Partnerships</p>	
<p>Our school-parent compact establishes the shared responsibility for student success between the school, families, and students. Families and teachers work together to develop the compact.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Copies of the compact are available for families during conferences, new student tours, Meet the Teacher night, on site at the school and on the John A. Johnson website. ▪ Compact is a resource for families to be informed about school events, home to school partnerships and opportunities for better communication. ▪ The compact will be updated annually in the spring. The Compact, like the School Continuous Improvement Plan (SCIP) and Family Engagement Plan (FEP) are living documents and will change as needed.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parents are asked to give input during conferences, at the Title I Annual meeting, during Parent Leadership Team (PLT) meetings and the Spring SCIP meeting.
<p>There are many opportunities for families to build connections to the school and to each other.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Title I Annual Meeting where we will share information about specific school programs and inform families about Title I and it's implementation at JAJ with opportunities for family engagement. ▪ Open House/Meet the Teacher Night, BINGO Bonanza, Literacy and Math nights, NAAPID (Family Involvement Day), Academic and Talent Showcase, STEM Night, Field Day, and conferences. ▪ Monthly ROAR Rallies hosted by different grades each month. ▪ National African American Parent Involvement Day (NAAPID) will be on February 8, 2021. ▪ Home Visits through the Parent Teacher Home Visits (PTHV). ▪ Parent Leadership Team (PLT) Meetings once a month (AM and PM opportunities)
<p>We work to have many of these meetings and events available for every family in the school.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bilingual staff/partners are asked to support our families at all events. ▪ Interpreters are hired for conferences. ▪ Interpreters, childcare, transportation and food are provided for our PLT meetings. ▪ Most of our events are after school or during the evening to accommodate varying schedules. ▪ Interpreters' call and Connect Ed. Calls go out in Spanish, Hmong English and Somali.
<p>Our school supports families as advocates and provides opportunities for shared parent leadership</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ When a parent is concerned, the classroom teacher is the first person the parent should contact. ▪ Parent concerns may be addressed by the teacher before or after school, during a scheduled meeting, or during conferences. ▪ The school administrators have open door policies; parents can always approach a member of the admin team if there are concerns.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Staff participate in professional development around making the first contact with families a positive one. In November and March, they discuss best practice to make the most of the 20 min. conference. ▪ Parent surveys are sent out via the Remind app and available during conferences so parents have an opportunity to provide input for what might help their students at JAJ. ▪ Parent Leadership Team (PLT) meeting provides an ongoing opportunity for families to have their voices heard in an intentionally parent co-led safe space. Families will be able to engage in curricular assessments and grade- level proficiency conversations.
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Teaching and Learning

<p>Our school shares information about student achievement with families in multiple ways</p>	<p>Report cards and progress reports will be distributed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Twice a year at conferences and via mail in spring ▪ The literacy assessment tool used is Strategic Teaching and Evaluation of Progress (STEP), it is administered three times a year to determine student’s progress. Students will send home specific information to their families regarding how they can support their child’s reading at home. Additionally, our homework is focused on reading daily and completing reading logs weekly to promote literacy growth. <p>Our traditional Parent-Teacher conferences are held on November 17th, 19th and 20th and March 25th and 26th, and as needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Our Student Assistant Team (SAT) provides support to regular education students with academic concerns. ▪ If a parent is concerned they should contact: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The classroom teacher. ○ The teacher will complete an SAT referral, and the team will meet to discuss necessary interventions. ○ The team will continue to monitor student progress and continue to meet as needed. ○ The school counselor, or classroom teacher will provide periodic updates for families.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family events such as our Academic Showcase and within PLT's meetings also provide opportunities to engage with their student's work.
<p>Our school will engage families in Personalized Learning as a key strategy to accelerate student achievement, as these changes come to our school</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent log-in information can be accessed at spps.org/onestop or by asking the school clerk. Our students have the opportunity for engaging in Extended Day for Learning (EDL) four days a week for additional academic support and enrichment experiences. Students have the opportunity to participate in tutoring during EDL. We are a 1:1 iPad Learning Environment. All students and parents will sign a user agreement annually for their child to take part in the use of iPads, which serves as a tool for individualized learning. Schoology and/or Seesaw – provide information about the use of these learning management systems at your school.
<p>Many before and after school enrichment and support opportunities are available for students.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beacons School Success (EDL Partner) Breakfast Clubs (4th – 5th grade students can select a leadership club to join, which meets twice per week in the morning). Genius Squad (5th grade students are interviewed and selected to set up iPads and technology equipment for staff and peers throughout the school year).

Community Partnerships	
<p>Our school develops community partnerships to provide additional support for students and their families</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eastside Family Center East YMCA Beacons School Success (EDL Partner) St. Mary's Health Clinic Children's Dental Services Wilder School Based Therapy Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services

This plan is available as part of our school's SCIP, or School Comprehensive Improvement Plan at scip.spps.org, is on our school website at jaj.spps.org, and printed copies are available in the office.