

Como Park Elementary School

2020-2021 Family Engagement Plan

Como Park Elementary teachers use the Como Collaborative Instruction Model, which means grade level teachers work together as a team to support each student’s level of learning. Through caring and collaboration, Como Park Elementary seeks to build a community of lifelong learners demonstrated through strong academic growth and achievement in all subject areas.

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	
Our school has staff member(s) available for families to discuss this plan and ask questions	Family Liaison: Mary Weyandt
Our school communicates with families in many ways.	<p>There are a number of ways that Como staff communicates with families:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our school website is a great place to get information about Como. Check it out at https://www.spps.org/Page/31 • Classroom and School-wide newsletters • Notes home from classroom teachers • Family calendar • Student planners • Flyers about specific events • Phone calls from teachers and staff • Emails from teachers and staff • Phone calls from Connect Ed • When families call, email, or send a note, Como teachers and staff do their best to respond within 24 hours.
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 that make it harder for students of color to succeed and for their families to support their learning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For more about our work on racial equity, contact: Principal Barbara Evangelist

Transitions between schools can be challenging, and we work to help families as their children start and leave our school.

For New Students and Families, we support transition by:

- Como provides many links on its web site to help families build reading skills at home. Classroom teachers send home books at the student's "just right" reading level for nightly practice.
- Hosting a Meet the Teacher/Open House Event during the week prior to the beginning of the school-year.
- Hosting an Open House during February
- Providing time, each fall, for Pre-K students and their families to visit the Pre-K classrooms, explore the Pre-K spaces, and do some classroom activities.
- Providing time, each spring, for Pre-K students and their families to visit the kindergarten classrooms, meet the kindergarten teachers, explore the kindergarten spaces, and do some kindergarten activities.
- Providing time, each spring, for Kindergarten students and their families to visit the first grade classrooms, meet the first grade teachers, explore the first grade spaces, and do some first grade activities.
- Providing tours and time to meet with staff for new students, their families and prospective families if requested.
- Como staff coordinate with Head Start to learn about new students and their specific educational needs.

For students and families moving to the next school in their pathway, we support the transition by:

- Providing time for 5th grade students to take a field trip to Washington High School to tour the building and meet with middle school students.
- Invite staff from Murray, Washington, and Como Senior High to participate in the Como Carnival with site booths to offer information and answer questions for Como's students and staff.
- Counselors from Murray come to help register interested students.
- School Counselor answers questions and helps students learn to use locker locks

Family Partnerships

<p>Our school-parent compact establishes the shared responsibility for student success between the school, families, and students.</p>	<p>Copies of the compact are available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the main office • In the Family Resource room
<p>Families and teachers work together to develop the compact.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In classrooms • On the Como website • The compacts will also be available: • At Family Academic Night • At parent/teacher conferences • At the greeting table during National African American • Parent Involvement Day • The compact will be updated: Spring 2021
<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 school programs in October 2019 • Family Heritage Night • Breakfast with the Principal • Movie Nights • Awards Day • Classroom activities and presentations • National African American Parent Involvement Day (NAAPID) will be on February 10, 2020, • Home Visits • 5th grade APTT conferences
<p>We work to make these meetings and events available for every family in the school.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At most events and meetings, Como provides Karen, Hmong and Spanish interpreters and other interpreters as needed. • For some meetings, Como provides childcare or activities for families to do together. • At some events, food is provided. • Como will pay for taxi service to help families attend school functions like conferences • Como has at least one Hmong speaker, a Karen speaker, and a Spanish speaker on staff to aide in interpreting for families • Como sends out flyers for events that are translated into Karen and sometimes other languages as needed. • Staff will ask interpreters to call families about events that pertain to them

Our school supports families as advocates and provides opportunities for parent leadership

- If parents have concerns about their child’s learning, they can contact the teacher and/or the principal by phone, email or written note.
- Staff receives professional development about working with families through their Professional Learning Communities and through after school professional development.
- Families are involved in planning for school improvement and family engagement during Breakfast with the Principal and other advisory meetings with the principal.

Teaching and Learning

Our school shares information about state standards, assessment and student achievement with families in multiple ways

- Report cards and progress reports will be distributed** by teachers at the fall and spring conferences and mailed home at the end of the year.
- Parent-Teacher conferences are held November 2019 and March 2020.
 - APTT – 5th grade Academic Parent Teacher Teams are scheduled for 3 dates during the school year – one in the fall, one in the winter, one in the spring.
 - Como Elementary has Minnesota Reading Corps tutors to support striving students Kindergarten through third grade. There is also a literacy coach to help classroom teachers plan for differentiated and targeted instruction. Each of these staff share information regularly with teachers so they can share specific information with parents about how their child is progressing.
 - Teacher’s provide parents with tools to assist in their child’s learning in literacy, math, and technology during APTT conferences and at African American Family Involvement Day.
 - Como provides many links on its web site to help families build reading skills at home. Classroom teachers send home books at the student’s “just right” reading level for nightly practice.

<p>Our school will engage in personalized learning as a key strategy to accelerate student achievement. Parents can get more information using many tools.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent log-in information can be accessed at spps.org/onestop or by asking the school clerk • Como will support parents in understanding i-Pad usage at school during our Fall Open House, APTT conferences, and our webpage. • 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>	<p>Como has Extended Day for Learning (EDL) on Monday and Wednesday after school.</p>
<p>Community Partnerships</p>	
<p>Our school develops community partnerships to provide additional support for students and their families</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Como has a partnership with North Dale Recreation Center where students can go to for after school programs (Como provides a walk line to North Dale) • Como has a partnership with Augsburg College and Northwestern University to bring in college students to tutor some of Como’s students. • Como partners with Big Brothers/Big Sisters who come to Como weekly for an after school program

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 <http://www.spps.org/comoel> and printed copies are available in the office.