Having good attendance in school is very important. Students attending school every day means s/he will not miss out on learning opportunities. Please try to schedule appointments and family trips outside of school hours. If your child is asking to miss school, please ask questions about why they want to miss. Let them know that they have to be in school unless they are truly sick.

We are finding that many of our students are coming to school very tired and late regularly. As adults, we know all too well how it feels to be tired trying to do quality work and make it through the day. Students showing up in these conditions are finding it challenging to navigate the day of learning with their peers. You can help us help your child each day by setting a reasonable and consistent bedtime so that they get ample rest and are ready for the next school day. On behalf of our entire staff I want to thank you in advance for this. It will make a difference.

The Heights’ team continues to look for ways to connect with families and it’s wonderful getting to know everyone. We are still interested in hosting a school event in our community where families come together. We are looking for ways to increase family participation at our evening events. It’s also an opportunity for our Heights staff community to get to know and learn more about our Eastside community. Our student leadership is working with me on ideas to make this vision a reality.

If you have suggestions for a great location for us to host one of our school community events please send me an email at hatti.moeller@spps.org or reach out to Ms. Julie Wellman at julie.wellman@spps.org.

In the meantime, have a wonderful December and I hope to see each of you here at The Heights Community School for one of our future calendar events.

In Partnership,

Principal Hatti Moeller

A Message for our Hmong families:
12 hlis (December) tim 23 txog 1 hlis ntuj (January) tim 3 tsis muaj kawm ntawv [Winter Break]
1 hlis ntuj (January) tim 6, 2020  rov qab pib kawm ntawv dua.

Nyob Zoo Xyoo Tshiab!

iUpdate: Nej mus saib thiab ua daim form tau nyob rau ntawm tsev kawm ntawv the Heights qhov website
spps.org/heights mus sau npe, chaw nyob, thiab lwm yam, muaj dab tsi tsev kawm ntawv thiaj li hu tau rau nej.
**Morning Schedule**

7:05-7:15 Patrols on duty for walkers
7:15 Cafeteria opens for FREE Breakfast to Go
7:30 All students must be in their classrooms or they will be marked tardy.

**Vacation Procedure**

If your student will be missing school due to a planned vacation, send a note to school stating the reason the student will not be in school and the days the student will be absent. The principal will make the decision as to whether or not the absence will be excused.

**Save the Date!**

**Attention Families!**

The Heights will be having a Multicultural Family Night on Wednesday, January 29.

We’d like your input and help!

We’d love to have as many of our diverse backgrounds represented at this event as possible.

Think about the talents of your household such as music, dance, art, crafts, traditional dress, demonstrations, etc. and how you might be willing to share these talents during the event.

Look for a flier with a survey and sign-up sheet the first week of January or call Julie Wellman at 651-293-8815 with your ideas!

**Cell Phone Use Reminder**

Students should not be bringing cell phones to school, unless it is required for a safety concern, before or after school. Please help us remind our students not to bring cell phones or other electronic devices to school. We want our students to focus on their studies, not their devices.

Please check out more guidelines in our Family Handbook at spps.org/heights

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**The Heights Community School**
651-293-8815

**Reporting Absences**

Please, always use the Attendance Line to call in an absent student!
(Use even during regular school hours!)

651-744-2273

The Attendance Line is Available 24 Hours a Day/7 Days a Week!

**PTA News**

The next PTA meeting is scheduled for:

**Thursday, January 16**
5:00-7pm
Please join us!

The 2019-20 PTA meetings are held:
Oct 10, Jan 16, March 12, April 16 and May 7 from 5-7pm.
The PTA and Title I budgets are discussed at the March 12 & April 16th meetings.

**Saints North Family Skate Center**
1818 Gervais Ct, Maplewood
(651) 770-3848

- Tues, Oct 22: 6:00-8 pm
- Canceled
- Tues, Dec 10: 6:00-8 pm
- Canceled
- Tues, Feb 4: 6:00-8 pm
- Pending
- Tues, April 16: 6:00-8 pm
- Pending

Sts North is looking for a school for us to pair up with. Further dates are pending but may be cancelled later this year.

**Chuck E Cheese**
445 Commerce Dr, Woodbury

- Wed, Oct 16: 3:00-9 pm
- Fri, Jan 17: 3:00-9 pm
- Fri, March 13: 3:00-9 pm
- Fri, May 8: 3:00-9 pm

**Box Tops for Education**

Keep collecting:

Box Tops for Education is moving toward collecting via an app. More information will be coming.

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Office Hours 7:15am-3:00pm
Dear Parents,

Please check the immunization records your children brought home. Please make an appointment to have your child/children complete all the required immunization before end of December.

My goal this school year is for our school to have zero exclusion. Thanks for all your support in seeing that this goal is achieved. Together we can make a difference in our children's lives.

Thanks,
Ms Obasi (School Nurse)

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**SPPS Winter Weather Plan**

**COLD**

School will be canceled if the forecast for 6 a.m. the following morning shows:
- Wind Chill is below -35 degrees Fahrenheit OR
- Air Temperature is below -25 degrees Fahrenheit

**SNOW**

The decision to cancel school for snow or hazardous driving conditions will continue to be made by 5 a.m. the morning of a cancellation.

**RECESS**

Schools will keep students inside if the wind chill is expected to be colder than -10 degrees below zero.

Families can view the complete winter weather plan, recess plan, clothing guidelines, safety tips and school bus safety at [spps.org/winter](http://spps.org/winter). Translations are available for download.

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**Eagle Rider Tickets**

Bus drivers hand out **Excellent Eagle Rider** tickets to students who follow bus expectations.

Students write their name and teacher on the ticket and give it to their teacher.

Teachers collect all tickets and put them in the Eagle Rider ticket bucket located in the copying room.

Ms. Leko will draw 10 tickets every Friday morning and those winners will be announced every Monday during morning announcements.

Students whose names are called will report to The CARES room for their Eagle Rider positive bus behavior reward.

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**Conversation Corner**

A conversation with your child is a great way to encourage children to increase vocabulary and gain confidence with speaking. Mrs. Galowitz has worked to give you some ideas to help you get more than a “yes”, “ok”, or “no” answer when asking your child about their school day. On the way home, at dinner or even bedtime is a great time for these simple questions.

1. Did you learn any new words today?
2. What do you hope to do before school is out for the year?
3. If you could switch seats with anyone in class, who would it be? And why?
4. What is your least favorite part of the school building? And favorite?
5. If you switched places with your teacher tomorrow, what would you teach the class?

As answers develop using a phrase such as, “tell me more” will help your child make more connections to school. It is a busy day full of learning and we hope children begin to talk more about the wonders of their school day.
Specialists’ News

Science-Ms. Kartes
Greetings from the science room!
Here is what we are working on:
5th grade- Designing an investigation with pendulums and variables. We will be moving onto food chains and how different animals behavior in their environment.
4th grade- Finding out what materials magnets stick to and force.
3rd grade- Structures and Functions of plants and animals
2nd grade- Life cycles of plants and animals.
1st grade- Observing and investigating rocks.
Kindergarten- The 4 seasons of the year and what they look like.
If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Music-Mr. Claver
In the past month, primary scholars worked on a variety of skills including steady beat, basic rhythms, matching pitch, and identifying and recognize the difference between high and low. Scholars also began to read music through the use of iconic music notation.
Intermediate scholars are continuing their work on vocal independence. 5th and 4th Grade solidified their knowledge of the dotted quarter note, and even created compositions using that note value. 3rd grade began to learn the music alphabet in preparation of our recorder unit.
Please note these important dates:
Friday, May 15th – Spring Concerts
K-2 – 8:45am 3-5 – 9:30am
Wednesday, June 3rd – Talent Show
K-2 – 8:45am 3-5 – 9:30am

Enrichment-Ms. Clardy
Enrichment classes meets once every ten days. We have continued to learn using Time For Kids which discusses current events at age appropriate levels. In addition, we are reviewing a Social Justice Curriculum. Look for the Time For Kids in your students’ backpacks. Also, students can access current articles on their website where articles can be read aloud to them.
GT classes will meet weekly beginning Monday, December 2, 2019. In December students will be involved Socratic seminars which supports their use of “Higher Order Thinking Skills”
4th and 5th grade Student Council meets on Fridays-They will address school spirit, the yearbook, fundraising for charity, Read Across America Read-A-thon at the Heights and more.
Mary.frances.clardy@spps.org

Early Admission to K Info Sessions

The Student Placement Center and Office of Early Learning are hosting events to inform families of the Early Admission to Kindergarten (EAToK) process and timelines.

Postcards will be mailed to families with children whose fifth birthday falls between September 2 and December 31, 2020 inviting them to one of two sessions:
5:30-7:00pm Thursday, Oct 24, 2019
Galtier Community School
5:30-7:00pm Thursday, Dec 12, 2019
Battle Creek Elementary

Transportation and child care are available upon request. Interpreters and food will be provided.

Families are asked to RSVP by following the link at apply.spps.org or calling The Student Placement Center at 651-632-3760.

Family Engagement
Parents are welcome at The Heights at any time.
Families are encouraged to engage at The Heights throughout the year in a variety of ways:
1. Volunteer (PTA, library, classroom, field trips, family events, etc)
2. Participate and/or observe in your child’s class
3. Communicate with your child’s teacher

Please call or email Julie Wellman for more details!
651-293-8815 julie.wellman@spps.org

Translations & Interpreters
School documents can be translated upon request or interpreters made available upon request.

Ámarinya (Amharic)
yeti / bětī senełochi bet’iyak’e wewimi äsiterigwamiiwochi litregemu yichilalu.
Myanmar (Burmese)
kyawngghcarothe hcarwathcartammyarry taurngsmuhkhoqmahote hre shine hote hchakarrya aapawshoet bhasarrpyan lahrswaw nineparsai.
Népalī (Nepali)
Anurōdhāmā skūla kāgaṭāṭhārī anuvāda garna sakincha vā vyākhyākārtāḥārī upalabdha garā'una sakincha.
Spanish
Todos los documentos pueden ser traducidos o interpretados oralmente si usted lo solicita
Hmong
Tej ntaub ntawv tom tsev kawm ntawv uas xa los rau nej, peb yuav pab txhais thiab nrhia neeg txhais lus rau nej yog nej hais qhia peb
Somali
Dhamaan dukiintiyada iskuulka waa la turjumi karaa ama waxaa la heli karaa turjumaan haddii la codsado"
At The Heights Community School, we will create a strong community with focused instruction and critical partnerships that effectively meet the academic and social needs of all students.

One of the tools we use to continually improve our school towards that mission is the district’s SCIP (School Comprehensive Improvement Plan) process. In our SCIP document, we review our school-wide data and create a strategic plan for the school year ahead.

This year, we have three main areas of focus in our SCIP, keeping a strong theme of culturally relevant, personalized learning practices at the core of all that we do:

**Reading**
- We will focus on improving our scholar’s reading levels by:
  - Differentiating small group instruction
  - Co-Teaching with Special Education/Multiple Language Learning teachers
  - Conferring with students to differentiate instruction and provide feedback
  - Teachers providing data driven phonics instruction

**Math**
- We will focus on improving our scholar’s math abilities by:
  - Teachers personalizing learning through differentiated instruction with flex groups and activities based on each scholar’s needs.
  - Teachers providing specific language supports which emphasizes students’ speaking and writing with accurate math vocabulary
  - Teachers enhancing students’ number sense and computational skills where they have gaps or misunderstandings through daily Math Review and Mental Math.
  - Teaching math facts (adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing) using a variety of ways to improve fluency.

**Culture Matters**
- We will strengthen our school-wide implementation of our Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 by:
  - teaching staff to utilize components of Morning Meeting and Closing Circle daily
  - teaching staff will be trained in and use Innocent Classroom strategies
  - staff receiving training and providing instruction for emotional self-regulation strategies (Zones of Regulation)
  - As a PBIS Team, we will monthly review our classroom procedures, feedback/acknowledgement systems, and discipline policies school-wide.

For more information, you can find the complete version of our 2019-2020 SCIP document here on our website [spps.org/heights](http://spps.org/heights)

We appreciate your commitment to your child’s success and your collaboration in this process. We look forward to another year of partnership with our school!
# The Heights 2018-19 Family Engagement Plan At-A-Glance

**Reading SMART Goal**
The percentage of all students scoring proficient or higher in Reading will increase from 23.5% to 35% by Spring 2020 as measured by the MCA III Reading Assessment administered in April 2020.

**Math SMART Goal**
The percentage of all students scoring proficient or higher in Math will increase from 28.3% to 35% by Spring 2020 as measured by the MCA III Math Assessment administered April 2020.

The Heights Community School will provide families:

- * a welcoming environment that promotes communication; identifies barriers that prevent racial equity; works with families as their children start and leave our school
- * a partnership that shares responsibility for student success; opportunities to build connections to school and each other; meetings and events available to every family; opportunities for parent leadership and advocacy; the foundation of parents’ information and skills for becoming more involved in our school
- * information about student achievement in multiple ways; engagement in Personalized Learning; before and after school enrichment and support opportunities for students
- * community partnerships for additional support for students success; opportunities to build connections to school and each other; the foundation of parents’ information and skills for becoming more involved in our school
- * information about student achievement in multiple ways; engagement in Personalized Learning; before and after school enrichment and support opportunities for students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>ACTION</th>
<th>DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Open House Meet &amp; Greet for New Families</td>
<td>School Program Review and Classroom Visits</td>
<td>Thursday, Aug 28, 2019 4:30-6:30 PM 4:00-4:30 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zones of Regulation Information Night</td>
<td>Provide Information about Curriculum regarding Behavior and Culture/Climate</td>
<td>Tuesday, Oct 1, 2019 5:30-7:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTA Meetings Yearly fiscal budget information is presented and discussed at the April 18 meeting.</td>
<td>In addition to PTA information, parents are also given information regarding curriculum, standards, MCAs, attendance issues, etc.</td>
<td>Thursday, Oct 10, 2019 5:00-7:00 PM Thursday, Jan 16, 2020 5:00-7:00 PM Thursday, March 12, 2020 5:00-7:00 PM Thursday, April 16, 2020 5:00-7:00 PM Thursday, May 7, 2020 5:00-7:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chat with The Principal</td>
<td>Open forum for parents to bring concerns, questions, etc. and learn about curriculum, standards, MCAs, attendance issues, etc.</td>
<td>Wednesday, Oct 24, 2019 8:45-9:30 AM Reschedule TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title I Annual Meeting and Family Math Night</td>
<td>Present Information about Title I programs and explore hands-on math activities.</td>
<td>Thursday, Oct 24, 2019 5:30-7:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent/Teacher Conferences</td>
<td>Conduct a family/teacher conference during which the compact shall be discussed as the compact relates to the individual child’s achievement; -Provide frequent reports to families on their child’s progress; and -Provide families with reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child’s class activities.</td>
<td>Nov 14 &amp; 19, 2019 3:00-6:00 PM Nov 15, 2019 8:00 AM-1:00 PM March 19 &amp; 24, 2020 3:00 – 6:00 PM March 20, 2020 8:00 AM-1:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multicultural Family Night</td>
<td>Reading strategies paired with multicultural books available to support reading at home.</td>
<td>Wednesday, Jan 29, 2020 5:00-7:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National African Parent Involvement Day (NAAPID)</td>
<td>Parenting tips available to support learning at home.</td>
<td>Monday, Feb 10, 2020 All Day 8:50 &amp; 9:40 Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Family Night</td>
<td>Supporting reading in the home (combined with I Love To Read month)</td>
<td>Thursday, Feb 27, 2020 5:30-7:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent Academy</td>
<td>Parents are given the opportunity to learn the process of getting their students through Saint Paul Public Schools for graduation and beyond.</td>
<td>TBD after Nov/March Conference: strategy to use interpreters at Nov/March Conferences to recruit English &amp; Spanish speaking families 5:30-7:45 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Budget and Parent Planning Forums</td>
<td>Parents are given the opportunity to review the current school year and given input to help plan for the next school year.</td>
<td>Budget: Thursday, March 12 &amp; April 18, 2020 PTA meetings 5:00-7:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PreK and Kindergarten Registration and Orientation</td>
<td>Supporting transition by working with families of new students.</td>
<td>Thursday, May 14, 2020 5:00-7:00 PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>