



Benjamin E. Mays IB World School
 560 Concordia Avenue
 St. Paul, MN 55103
 (651) 325-2400
 Benmays.spps.org



2015-2016 Family Engagement Plan

School Vision:

Develop confident, literate, and responsible students who will be able to think critically, make great decisions, and become internationally minded students who pursue post secondary educational options.

School Mission:

Through rigorous intercultural and interdisciplinary studies, students will be empowered with the communication and leadership skills necessary to become productive global citizens who are inquiring, knowledgeable, and caring.

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 Liaison: Karen Shanahan (651) 325-2400 karen.shanahan@spps.org • Benjamin E. Mays IB World School has a school committee around Family Engagement which will meet regularly and support the plan. This committee will know the Family Engagement Plan and will be able to address families' questions.
<p>Our school communicates with families in many ways.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important school papers and the weekly school newsletter, <i>The Inquirer's Journey</i>, come home in our Wednesday Communication Packets. • Watch our school website for important information and upcoming events, benmays.spps.org • Each teacher updates the information regarding what is currently being studied in their classroom on the website in the classroom section at benmays.spps.org. They also have bi-monthly or weekly classroom newsletters that go home in the Wednesday Communication Packets. • Additionally <i>The Inquirer's Journey</i> is sent electronically through e-mail every week. • Extra fliers for events are available in the office. • When families call, email, text, or send a note, we do our best to respond within 24 hours during the work week.

<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 that make it harder for students of color to succeed and for their families to support their learning.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mays staff has participated in Beyond Diversity Training and regular racial equity professional development. Staff uses the Courageous Conversations About Race Protocol (CCAR) to guide work in instruction, meetings, and other school events. Staff will further explore Critical Race Theory tenets and will launch into E3 (Education, Excellence and Equity) work. • Parents, families and community members are given a chance to voice their concerns and provide counter-narratives through our World Café gatherings. We hold World Café gatherings in school and community settings and have provided childcare, dinner, transportation and staff that are multi-lingual to encourage participation by all our families. • Families are also encouraged to come to Lunch with the Principal to discuss what is happening at the school directly with the administration. Lunch with the Principal is held the second Friday of every other month beginning in September.
<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"> • Benjamin E. Mays IB World School hosts an Open House at the end of August before the new school year starts which orients families and students to the school and provides an opportunity for families to meet staff. • Orientation folders are given to families who start during the school year. • Lunch with the Principal is held every other month to give new families an opportunity to engage with administration. These second Friday’s of the month are designated School Visit days and families are encouraged to visit classrooms. • School tours are available. • For our pre-k and kindergarten families we have Transition Conferences during the first days of school. During these conferences families meet the teacher, complete paper work, go through a brief assessment, and raise questions and concerns about their student’s education. • Mays hosts Take Your Parent to School days for Pre-K and K students which familiarize families with curriculum and daily routines. • Mays publicizes and encourages families to attend the district’s Blast-Off to Kindergarten event. • Mays and the King Child Development Center (King CDC) will continue to develop a relationship by inviting King CDC students to visit the Mays Kindergarten classrooms in fall and spring and having Take Your Parent to School for King CDC parents fall and spring. Mays will also host a “Parent Empowerment Meeting” at the King CDC.

	<p>We support transitions within school by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-K students visit kindergarten classrooms. • First Grade and Kindergarten teachers meet in spring to discuss the transition and look at challenges. • Part of our Kindergarten staff will loop to first grade. • PBIS Committee develops clear school-wide expectations. They support staff in the teaching of these expectations across all grades. • The IB framework supports transitions within the school. Students study the same six transdisciplinary themes throughout grades k-5 (because of time limitations, pre-k participates in fewer transdisciplinary themes). They aspire to and are taught the same Learner Profile and Attitudes. The same five skills are developed and the same action cycle is reinforced. <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"> • Benjamin E. Mays IB World School hopes to increase articulation for our IB program (Ramsey, Hazel Park, and Highland). • 5th grade IB Exhibition, the culminating IB event for the PYP Programme, encourages families and students to continue their IB education. • Participation in School Choice Fair • Lunch with the Principal in January the topic is IB and Transitions, focusing on the upcoming enrollment for middle schools • A panel discussion with question and answer session will be held for our students. This panel will be lead by SPPS middle school staff.
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Family Partnerships

<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: Benjamin E. Mays IB World School is pleased with the partnership between families and school in the development of grade-level compacts around academic goals. Compacts are available during our Open House in September, during Parent/Teacher Conferences in fall and spring and during Title I Night. They are also posted on our website and available in our main office. • The compact will be updated: Every year in the spring.
<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. • A student IB Showcase occurs for each grade level during the year.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5th Grade Exhibition event showcases the culmination of the students IB PYP education at the end of the school year. • Math and Literacy Nights based on the academic goals identified in our compacts. • World Café gatherings. World Café provides a framework in which the greater community is invited to provide input in a conversational format. • Every other month, Lunch with the Principal will be held on topics identified by parents as areas of interest; Standards & Progress, IB, Transitions, Reading & Math, and Individualized Learning. • National African American Parent Involvement Day (NAAPID) will be on February 8, 2016 • Pre-K and Kindergarten <i>Take Your Parent To School Day</i> introduces families to what is happening in the classroom. • Our school participates in the Parent Teacher Home Visit Project. • Our PTA hosts community building events such as: Movie Night, Carnival, and Bingo. • PTA (Parent Teacher Association) meets regularly throughout the year.
<p>We work to make these meetings and events available for every family in the school.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bilingual staff assists in reaching families who speak Spanish, Hmong and other languages. • Our MLL (Multi Lingual Learners) staff provides language support to our families. • Mays circulates the event flyers in Spanish, Hmong, and Somali provided by the district. • Some of our multi-lingual families offer their assistance promoting and hosting events. • Interpreters are provided for Parent/Teacher conferences. • Childcare is provided for our World Café • To promote family attendance at events: a meal is provided at all IB Showcase events, at World Café, and during our Math and Reading nights. • Transportation is available upon request to events. • During IB Showcase evenings, teachers may arrange for students to stay afterschool to accommodate families' schedules and allow full participation.
<p>Our school supports families as advocates and provides opportunities for parent leadership</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If parents have concerns about their child's learning the process at Benjamin E. Mays IB World School is to start discussion with classroom teacher (involving MLL staff or Special Education staff as needed); then to approach the administrator assigned to that grade; after this, refer the concern to the Principal; if resolution has not been gained, next involve the district Ombudsperson. • The district has an Ombudsperson available to help resolve

	<p>conflict between families and schools. The Ombudsperson is a person who listens to and investigates complaints against Saint Paul Public Schools, its programs, offices and staff. The Ombudsperson does not take sides. She works with parents, community members and the school district to clarify and resolve questions, concerns and complaints in a fair and timely manner. The services of the Ombudsperson are free. Our Ombudsperson is Dana Abrams, at (651) 767-8394 or dana.abrams@spps.org.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our staff has ongoing Racial Equity training which encourages conversations with families. • Mays has a Family Engagement Committee which meets regularly. • Previous to our World Café events we have team meetings between key staff and parent stakeholders to frame the questions used to guide the conversations. • World Café provides a framework in which the greater community is invited to provide input in a conversational format. • Student leadership groups made of 4th and 5th grade representatives meet bi-monthly to address concerns and provide input. • PTA meets regularly. Times will be posted in <i>The Inquirer's Journey</i>. • Parent Focus groups meet to provide feedback on Compacts and Family Engagement Plan.
<p>Parent Academy provides the foundation of parents' information and skills for becoming more involved in our school. Parent Academy is a six-week program for families.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent Academy Seminars will be held: Tuesday, February 2, 2016; Tuesday, March 1, 2016; and Tuesday, March 29, 2016.

Teaching and Learning	
<p>Our school shares information about student achievement with families in multiple ways</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report cards will be distributed in person during Parent/Teacher Conferences. If a family is unable to attend conferences, teachers will use phone conferences or home visits to reach out to parents. The report card is sent home if families cannot meet for conferences. • Progress Reports will be distributed bi-monthly. • Parent-Teacher conferences are held twice a year in fall and spring • Mays has developed a Family/Teacher Plan to facilitate ongoing conversations with families around academic success.

	<p>Mays supports additional activities preparing our students for success:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NAAPID hosting speakers/discussion addressing academic development. • At Benjamin E. Mays we align our Family Nights with our academic goals. Family Math Night in fall focuses on the areas in math k-5 that have been identified through data and staff meetings as needing additional attention. • Specific ways families partner with Mays to build reading skills in K-3 (particularly for students not reading at grade level): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reading Calendars (to encourage daily reading at home); ○ partnership with PTA to provide students free books at events; ○ sight word flashcards for families created to support the Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade Compacts; ○ Mays website (benmays.spps.org) has a section devoted to reading and reading resources including booklists, leveled reading charts, and questions to ask your student for fiction and non-fiction reading; ○ Minnesota Reading Corps members use data driven interventions to tutor students in reading. Tutors work with students daily, one-on-one or in small groups, for 20 minutes. Parents are notified of their student’s involvement in this program. ○ Reading Corps members working with students below grade level have their students participate in RAH (Read at Home). ○ Mays will work through a coordinated volunteer program, Reading Partners, to provide one-on-one reading support to students in grades 1-4 reading below grade level.
<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"> • Mays students will receive iPads in November of 2015 to use in the classroom. Teachers are required to attend courses to explore personalized learning through technology. • A Family iPad event will be held Thursday, November 5th to acquaint families with technology in the classroom. • The IB curriculum is inquiry based and encourages personalized learning through its process. IB PLCs encourage depth in our IB planning.

<p>Many before- and after-school enrichment and support opportunities are available for students</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EDL • ComMusication • Freedom School • Community Education Classes • Lego League • Choir • Girl Scouts • Partnership with YWCA
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Community Partnerships	
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<p>Our school develops community partnerships to provide additional support for students and their families</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everybody Wins • Minnesota Reading Corps • Phillips Eye Institute • King Child Development Center • Family Tree Clinic • Fuel Up to Play 60 • PBS Kids • Cretin Derham Hall • Kohl’s Project Immunization Clinic • Children’s Dental Services • Hallie Q. Brown Community Center • Rondo ECFE • Minneapolis Institute of Arts (MIA) • KOFI • Thad Wilderson and Associates • Golden Thyme Coffee Café • Hubb Center • Rondo Outreach Community Library • Redeemer Lutheran Church (uniform assistance)
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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 benmays.spps.org and printed copies are available in the office.