

Nokomis Montessori North campus

2019-2020 Family Engagement Plan

School Introduction:

Students at Nokomis Montessori North campus, serving the east side of Saint Paul, learn in multi-grade classrooms. We are a Montessori School utilizing the Montessori method and blend in components of Reader's workshop and Writer's workshop. Students learn in a noncompetitive environment and use special Montessori materials that help them understand concepts and skills. Differentiated instruction is embedded in the Montessori methodology. Students in a Montessori environment learn strategies to think and work independently. The Montessori teaching style and classroom organization maximizes the school learning environment and student behavior.

Vision: Our vision is to create a school community which stays true to our unique Montessori philosophy and methodology; where students and staff achieve individual learning success by nurturing our creativity in a clean, beautiful, peaceful environment.

Mission: Through collaboration, Montessori methodology/curriculum and staff development Nokomis will provide a learning environment that nurtures successful guided learning for every student.

Special qualities:

- All-Day Pre-K program
- All-day Kindergarten
- Multi-grade classrooms
- Discovery Club Program at Nokomis Montessori South campus (fee based before or after school)
- ALC Extended Day Classes (twice a week)
- High parent/family participation.

Nokomis Montessori expanded to a dual, mirror campus in fall 2013 as determined by Strong Schools, Strong Communities to accommodate expansion of this popular program. Both campuses have Children's House (CH, PreK – K), Elementary I (E1, grades 1 – 3) and Elementary II (E2, grades 4 – 5). Each campus will have their own principal in 2019-2020.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Liaison: Terri Jackson, Principal
Our school communicates with families in many ways.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New principal will continue to mail two welcome back to school letters to all families in August 2019 • Open House is scheduled on Thursday, August 29, 2019 from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. We distribute a 2019-2020 Nokomis Montessori Calendar & Parent Handbook including Title I Compact and Title I Family Engagement Plan. • CH Montessori Teachers meet with all PreK and Kindergarten parents on September 3 & 4. • PTO meetings meet monthly with campuses

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nokomis Climate Advisory Team (NCAT) meets monthly at Nokomis Montessori North as supports Restorative Practices grant implementation. • When parents/families call, email or send a note, we do our best to respond within 24 hours • Information is sent home to families in backpacks in Nokomis Friday folders. • Principal writes ongoing messages for Clerk to send using district Connect Ed to send email & text messages to promote family participation in school events • Principal writes monthly Nokomis Montessori newsletter including updated monthly calendar posted on school website • Montessori teachers communicate regularly with parents using newsletters or See Saw to share student work or promote school events
<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"> • For more about our work on racial equity, contact: Terri Jackson, Principal
<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"> • Our PreK and Kindergarten students remain with the same CH Montessori teacher for two years. • Principal communicated new “Parent Input” form in May 2019 newsletter asking parents to request from their child’s current Montessori teacher and due by May 15, 2020 to Principal, Terri Jackson. • New student registration scheduled on April 24, at 10:00 a.m. including observation of CH classrooms or 4:30-6:00 p.m. includes parents and students visit CH classrooms. Special education team supported IEP students during registration. Clerk and Administrative team support registration of parents/students accepted after new student registration offering information about the school and tour of classrooms as they register. • At new student registration in Spring 2020 we asked new PreK and kindergarten parents if new PreK or new Kindergarten students participated in Head Start, ECFE, ECSE or other preschool programs. • Principal met with current Kindergarten and third grade parents on May 7 at 9:30 a.m. to support the transition to the next Montessori level including tour of E1 and E2 classrooms.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We encourage parents to bring younger siblings to school events to support a positive transition to school. • Nokomis is a popular choice for East Side parents/families. We begin our marketing season at our district School Choice Fair in January 2020. In mid-January 2020 the principal submits an IT ticket to obtain a list of PreK (4 by 9-1-20) and Kindergarten (5 by 9-1-20) siblings and then outreaches to remind parents to enroll by SPPS priority application deadline. • Parents come to an Open House scheduled during the school day in January at 10:00 a.m. including classroom observations or 6:00 p.m. Principal communicates with all prospective parents offering multiple school day tours to promote our Montessori instructional methodology. • For students and families moving to the next school in their pathway, we support the transition by: • Our fifth grade students visit Parkway in January 2020 as our pathway school. Parkway provides a bus for our students. • Our school counselor facilitates five class lessons with our fifth grade students to support the transition to Middle School. She reviews these skills to support a positive transition: organization skills, reading a schedule, opening a locker/lock, peer pressure. • Secondary schools: outline college and career programs and support available (dual credit, CTE, etc)
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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: 2019-2020 Nokomis Montessori Calendar; Montessori & Autism Teachers distribute at the beginning of the year; school website; review at fall and spring parent-teacher conferences; poster in lobby; and copies available in the school office. • The compact will be updated: April 2020 • Montessori Teachers will review with parents/families at the Montessori Parent Education Night scheduled on Thursday, September 19, 2019.
<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 at Family Lunch on Friday, October 4, 2019 • National African American Parent Involvement Day (NAAPID) will be on February 10, 2020.

- Students stay with the same Montessori teacher Children’s House (CH), grades PreK-K; Elementary 1 (E1), grades 1-3; and Elementary 2 (E2), grades 4-5. This results in a stronger relationship between teacher-student-parents-siblings. There is high student stability at Nokomis Montessori.
- Teachers trained in SPFT Home Visit project will continue completing home visits.
- Bilingual Hmong & Spanish speaking staff members are available during the school day.
- Interpreters are arranged for Parent-Teacher conferences and school events as needed by ELL teacher team.
- Translations in Hmong, Spanish, Somali, Karen and other languages are available as needed.
- Taxi transportation is available for school day or evening events.
- **PTO Fall Festival** is scheduled on Friday, October 24, 2019 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. including flu shot clinic from 5:00-7:00 p.m.
- **Hmong New Year** is scheduled on Friday, December 6, 2019. Our Hmong CLAnD students perform at our Hmong New Year Celebration.
- **Open House** is scheduled in January 2020 at 10:00 a.m. (includes classroom observations) or 6:00 p.m. to promote our program to new prospective parents.
- **National African American Parent Involvement Day (NAAPID)** is scheduled on Monday February 10, 2020. We invite parents to come for lunch with their child.
- **E2 Fun Fair** is scheduled in Spring 2020. Our E2 Fun Fair is a service-learning project for our E2 students and parents.
- Our annual **Science Fair** is scheduled in March (aligned with parent-teacher conference week) with morning judging by parents/community members & displays are open during evening conferences.
- **Volunteer Appreciation** is scheduled in May 2020.
- **EDL Band & Strings Concert** is scheduled in May 2020 with after school performance and afternoon performance (if aligns with EDL Band/Strings teacher schedule) .
- Students perform by class at **one of three assemblies** (International Peace Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day & Earth Day) are planned during the 2019-2020 school year. Parents and families are invited to participate in the day assembly.
- Nokomis **North Climate Advisory Team (NCAT)** was created December 2016 to create and maintain a positive school climate as we prepared to apply for RP grant. BtoH staff and parents belong to NCAT. NCAT is recruiting in creative ways to bolster parent membership. Meetings are

	<p>held every 2nd Thursday each month at North from 5:00-6:30 p.m. Free school-age childcare is available to support parent involvement.</p>
<p>We work to make these meetings and events available for every family in the school.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We distribute a 2019-2020 Nokomis Montessori North School Calendar & Parent Handbook including Title I Family Engagement Plan and Title I Compact at Open House. • We launch the school year with Montessori Parent Education in September. We serve a family pizza dinner and provide school-age childcare and interpreters to boost parent involvement. • The Principal writes and distributes a monthly newsletter to promote participation in our school activities including lunch menu, PTA newsletter and other important information. Our monthly newsletter and calendars are posted on our school website. • We have bilingual Hmong and Spanish speaking staff members available during the school day. We can use the online interpreter service as needed. Our ELL teacher team coordinates interpreters for parent-teacher conferences. • The principal arranges Hmong and Spanish interpreters to assist with other parent events such as Montessori Parent Education, new student registration and as requested. • We provide translations in Hmong, Spanish, Somali, Karen and other languages as needed. • We schedule day and evening conferences to promote parent participation. • Food is frequently provided at school events to promote parent involvement. • Taxi transportation is available for day and evening events. • Principal writes message for Clerk to send to parents of students recommended by teachers for Summer School who haven't registered in late April to encourage to register to receive additional academic support in free district summer school programs.
<p>Our school supports families as advocates and provides opportunities for parent leadership</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We encourage parents to contact their child's Montessori, ELL, Special Education or Prep teachers as a first step. Direct phone numbers and email addresses are listed in our 2019-2020 Nokomis Montessori School Calendar & Parent Handbook. • The Principal is approachable, available and responsive to any requests from parents. • We will continue home visits as several teachers completed SPFT Home Visit training. • We are a year 2 pilot site for Restorative Practice in 2019-2020 and plan to communicate action steps in monthly newsletter. Restorative Practices will be implemented at monthly Nokomis Climate Advisory Team meetings.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Principal frequently embeds professional development about working with families at staff meetings, team meetings and one-to-one conversations with all staff members. • We reviewed our 2019-2020 Title I Compact, 2019-2020 SCIP and 2019-2020 Family Engagement Plan at our May 7, 2020 PTO Meeting and May 15, 2020 Volunteer Appreciation & Family Lunch. • Principal schedules time at monthly Leadership team meetings and Site Council meetings to monitor progress on SCIP 2019-2020 and 2019-2020 Title I Family Engagement Plan.
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Teaching and Learning	
<p>Our school shares information about state standards, assessment and student achievement with families in multiple ways</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report cards and progress reports will be distributed at November 2019 and March 2020 parent-teacher conferences. We have a history of high percentage of parents participating in parent-teacher conferences at Nokomis Montessori North campus. Our district mails June progress report to parents. • Parent-Teacher conferences are held in Montessori and Autism teacher classrooms. • Teachers will share FAST reading assessment data with our K-5 parents during parent-teacher conferences. Teachers focus on teaching guided reading groups and use FAST reading assessment data to inform instructional next steps. Our Literacy teacher provides targeted reading intervention groups to struggling students in grades 1-5. We register our struggling grade 3-5 students for EDL after school classes. We offer home reading strategies to parents to strengthen reading students achievement. • Teachers share math student progress at November and March Parent-Teacher conferences. Teachers focus on math instructional interventions, recommend students for EDL after school classes and offer home math strategies to parents to strengthen math student achievement.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our ELL teachers share ELL Progress reports at November and March Parent-Teacher conferences. Principal encourages ELL teachers to participate in parent- teacher conferences of our highest need students. ELL teachers share W-APT for Kindergarten ACCESS test data for grades 1-5 at November conferences. ELL teachers provide academic language support to our grade K-5 students. • Our Special Education teachers share Special Education Progress reports at November and March Parent-Teacher conferences. Principal encourages ELL teachers to participate in parent- teacher conferences of our highest need students. • Montessori Parent Education Night is scheduled on Thursday, September 19, 2019 from 5:30-7:30 p.m., with a family dinner between 5:30 – 6:00 p.m. Montessori Teachers facilitate presentations. Free school age childcare is provided. • Our K-3 students bring home reading book bags to support daily reading at home. • Family Nights aligned with SCIP – Reading: We are planning a mid-year evening family event to share reading strategies to use at home with your PreK grade 5 child. Our reading intervention teacher funded by Title I will share reading strategies. Math: We are planning a mid-year evening CH, E1 and E2 math make and take learning to support learning at home. • Elementary Schools: Our CH and E1 Montessori teachers send home weekly book bags (including sight word rings for Kindergarten students) to encourage reading at home. Our K-3 teachers communicate regularly with parents about reading progress and share strategies to strengthen reading progress including completing weekly homework. Our E1 teachers encourage our struggling students to participate in EDL classes for additional academic support. Our K-3 teachers encourage K-3 students to participate in Summer School to receive additional academic support.
<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 Paula McGaughey. Reminder, <u>Parent Portal shows attendance only in elementary schools.</u> • We use iPads to support student learning at school. Student iPads remain at school. • Seesaw – Teachers use Seesaw to communicate with parents including sharing student work
<p>Many before- and after-school enrichment and support opportunities are available for students</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EDL classes on Monday (Reading focus) & Wednesday (Math focus). • EDL Band/Strings for grades 4-5 students.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discovery Club at Nokomis Montessori South campus is offered and is a fee-based childcare program (before, after, and no school day). • Hmong CLAnD after school classes are offered to prepare our students to perform at December Hmong New Year Celebration. • Hazel Park Recreation Center offers after school Rec Check and no-school days childcare
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Community Partnerships

<p>Our school develops community partnerships to provide additional support for students and their families</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will continue our partnership with Minneapolis Institute of Arts “Art Adventures” including parent art volunteers and field trips to MIA. • Collaboration with Hazel Park Recreation Center to offer after school Rec Check free after school childcare and/or no school days in October 2019, Winter Break 2019-2020 and Spring Break 2020. • Family Revelation. • Girl Scout troops meets regularly in 2019-2020 at Nokomis Montessori South campus • An ongoing partnership with local artists has been created to provide annual arts-in-residencies in our E2 classrooms funded by our service learning E2 Fun Fair
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This plan is available as part of our school’s SCIP, or School Comprehensive Improvement Plan at spps.org/scip, is on our school website at school.spps.org , and printed copies are available in the office.