



Houston Independent School District

Henry A. Petersen Elementary School

Danitra A. Arredondo, Principal

February 12, 2020

Parent and Family Engagement Policy

2019-2020

Petersen Tigers

Petersen Elementary School is committed to the education of the children in our community. We feel parent involvement is an essential piece in ensuring that our students are successful in school. We believe that when parents are more involved in the academic process, school becomes more of a priority for their children. Petersen Elementary School's motto is "Believe It... Achieve It... Whatever It takes." This expression is not only intended to be utilized within our school but is something we hope resonates in our community. It is our mission to produce a community of live-long learners. It is our pledge to maintain a good line of communication from school to homes and our goal to provide ample opportunities for parental involvement throughout each school year.

A. Policy Involvement

As a Title 1 program, each year in September, we invite the parents and families of all children to participate in Title 1 campus meetings. The parents are invited to a minimum of four meetings, however there are many more opportunities for the parents to participate throughout the year.

At the meeting we discuss Title 1 law, its requirements, and the rights and benefits to parents of children involved. We help the parents and families to attend the meeting by providing fliers and reminders of the meeting date. We explain how parents and families can be involved in planning, review, and improvement of the Title 1 programs, including contributing to this parental involvement policy. In addition, the principal gives parents an update on school test data, and facilitate a review of the school's improvement plan.

Petersen Elementary offers a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening. Parents and families are invited to participate in a variety of meeting and activities over the course of the school year. An Open House is held at the start of the school year and again in early Spring semester to provide parents and families the opportunity to formally visit their child's classroom to become better informed about grade level expectations and their student's academic progress. Our school offers a computer for parents and guardians to access and monitor their child's progress. In

order to meet the needs of our diverse group of parents, we offer ESL education classes and various trainings throughout the year. There is also a Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) for the school where the parents can interact with the principal, teachers and staff.

Parents are invited to participate in a parent-teacher conference at least twice a year to discuss their student's progress. Parents and families can also request more progress conferences as they see the need.

B. Program Involvement

At our Fall and Spring annual meetings, or at other times throughout the year, we give parents and families of participating children timely information about Title 1 programs, including reading/math tutorials, and summer school. We describe and explain the curriculum in use at the school, we explain our expectation for students, and we explain how we measure student performance. We explain how each individual child and our school is doing on state tests such as the STAAR, and other measures of performance such as TELPAS, CIRCLE, High Frequency Word Evaluation, Gifted and Talented testing, District assessments and other teacher generated tests.

In addition to our regular four required meetings, we hold monthly meetings to respond to parent and families' suggestions, participate in other activities, share experiences with other parents, and participate in decisions concerning services. Other meetings offered are: volunteer opportunities, PTO, 3-4 Open Houses throughout the school year, Donuts with Dads, Coffee with the Principal, Fall Festival, Museum Nights, Daddy Daughter Dance, Muffins with Moms, Mommy Son Dance, and various other cultural events.

We use a variety of communicative techniques such as our Student Handbook, School Newsletter, School Website, Communication folders, School messenger, Parent Teacher conferences, Open Houses, progress reports, report cards, Benchmark results and school marquee to solicit parent and family participation and deliver important information.

C. School-Parent Compact

The School-Parent Compact was developed jointly with parents of participating Title 1 students and explains how parents, the entire school staff, and students will all share responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents and families will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's high standards of academic achievement.

D. Building Capacity for Involvement

To ensure effective involvement and improve academic achievement, we will promote a partnership between our school, parents and families and the community. Together, we will build the school's and parents' and families' capacity for strong parental involvement by implementing the following activities:

- Assist parents in the understanding of the TEKS, STAAR, and district's assessments, how to monitor student progress, and how to work with teachers to improve their student's achievement.

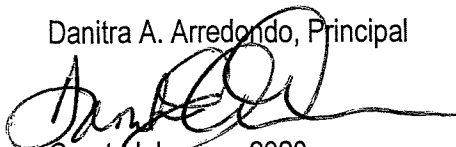
- Provide materials and training to help parents work with their children, such as Family Science night, Math and Literacy nights, GT socials, Open House, STAAR night, and scheduled conferences between teachers and parents and families as well as other school functions.
- We value the communication, contributions and working with our parents and families as equal partners to suggest, implement and coordinate parent programs to build ties between our families and our school. Provide surveys for parents and implement suggestions if feasible.
- Will coordinate and integrate, to the extent feasible, parents' involvement programs and activities with our community agencies and organizations to develop a school-business partnership that include activities for our parents. Our Wraparound Specialist is assisting with connecting us with our community agencies, organizations and churches to assist with our parent and family involvement.
- Ensure that information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities are sent to parents of participating children in a format and in a language the parent can understand. Some of the standard information sent home in Spanish includes this policy, School-Parent Compact, announcements, newsletters, report cards, school profiles, and student test results. We ensure the ability of parents with disabilities to participate by providing handicap access to classrooms and buildings where meetings are held.

Parents of all students, regardless of English proficiency, mobility or disability, are an important part of our learning community. All parents are afforded the opportunity to be involved in their child's school environment. For this reason, if a special need is identified that would help a parent to more fully understand the educational process and the academic progress of his/her child, assistance will be provided to that parent. This type of support often comes in the form of interpreted school documents in the parent's primary language, having an interpreter on hand to translate important information at school wide meetings and events, using an interpreter to provide translation in parent/teacher conferences, participating in faculty and staff training to better understand the culture of the students served, providing easier accessibility to parents and/or students with disabilities, etc.

WE value your support in the education experience of your student. Together, we are committed to excellence for all our students.

Danitra A. Arredondo, Principal

Josefa Sanchez, Title 1 Coordinator



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