Grasonville Elementary School
Parent and Family Engagement Plan
2020 - 2021
“Partnering with Families During Distance Learning”

Grasonville Elementary School is identified as a Title I school as part of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Title I programs are designed to improve teaching and learning for students, increase student achievement and support a school-family partnership. We work with our families to jointly develop this Family Engagement Plan/Compact. We invite our families to participate in Family Support Teams to discuss, review, and provide feedback for the School Improvement Plan, Parent and Family Engagement Plan/Compact, and Title I Parent and Family Engagement budget. We also host collaborative conversations to determine how to better support communication and partnerships between our families and teachers. Family members are invited to join various committees such as the School Improvement Team, PTA, our Family Action Team and DUDEs in School. For more information regarding our Title I program and/or questions, concerns, or comments regarding our Schoolwide Plan, please contact our Family Engagement Specialist, Amanda Ensor at amanda.ensor@qacps.org, or our Teacher Specialist, Tiara Rhoades at tiara.rhoades@qacps.org or 410-827-8070. Our school excels when families and educators work together as authentic partners to design, develop, and implement programs that matter in the lives of children.

At-Home Learning Family Engagement Plan: Developed for the 2020 - 2021 Distance Learning Model

As we begin this school year with an at-home learning model, it is critical to focus on strengthening relationships with students and families. We must provide regular opportunities to share feedback and express concerns. We must continue to build and maintain an intentional partnership with all of our stakeholders. Sharing information regularly and transparently is a priority. It must be partnered with creating meaningful opportunities for all voices to be heard. Families and communities need to be included in decision making. In order to continue to ensure this partnership in a virtual environment, Grasonville Elementary School will prioritize the following:

- **Health and social wellbeing will be a priority.** The challenges associated with social distancing and a global pandemic are likely to cause elevated levels of stress for our community. We will work diligently to ensure access to mental health services and supports throughout this time.
- **We will keep collaboration and communication simple and consistent.** Families are overwhelmed with the inundation of emails and social media posts. We will work to ensure our information is easy-to-access.
- **We will provide opportunities to maintain our school communities.** Schools are so much more than a physical building. We will work to ensure students and families feel a sense of belonging and the same levels of connectedness.

Learning has shifted physically from schools to homes and for most of our students, from face-to-face to online. Despite these shifts, we remain vigilant that our schools are and will remain a source of structure, continuity, and growth during this uncertain time. We know these shifts are taking place with great stress and worry and will do our best to provide an ongoing, strong, and supportive partnership for our families.

*Keep in mind that things are changing rapidly and we all need to be flexible and ready to adjust.*

**Opportunities for “Distant” Engagement**

- Virtual Back-to-School Night
- Virtual “Proud to be a Title I School” Event
- Virtual Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Family Support Messages (Videos, Newsletters, Text Messages, Phone Calls, Morning Announcements, etc.)
  - DUDEs In School (Male Outreach Group)
  - Drive-By Family Events (At least 3 Annually)

**Working with the Community**

Despite social distancing barriers, we will continue to collaborate with local, state, and federal programs to strengthen the family-school partnership.

- 21st Century Community Learning Center (PFY Program): QACPS PFY has provided virtual learning opportunities to take place after school hours.
- Child Care Providers and Distance Learning Pods: Communication with all CAREGIVERS during this time is essential.

*Foreign language and sign language interpreters are always available upon request. Please contact the front office staff or our Family Engagement Specialist, Amanda Ensor at amanda.ensor@qacps.org for services and assistance. Transportation will be provided to families upon request.*