

Jefferson-Houston Parent and Family Engagement Policy 2023-2024

Jefferson-Houston PreK – 8th IB School values parent engagement as a critical role in the academic success of students. Jefferson-Houston believes that collaboration with parents is truly about engagement at the highest level possible, and that parents play an integral role in assisting their student's learning.

1. Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their children's education at school
2. Parents are full partners in their children's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their children

PLANNING PROCESS

Jefferson-Houston PreK – 8 IB School jointly developed this parental involvement policy in consultation with school personnel, community members, and parents. This policy was distributed to parents in their preferred language. This policy will be made available to parents and the local community on the school's website, email, and via newsletter. If the Title I plan (application) is not satisfactory to parents, Alexandria City Public Schools will submit any parent comments with the application when the plan is submitted to the state. The parent involvement plan may be updated annually to meet the changing needs of parents and the school.

SCHOOL and FAMILY COMPACT

Jefferson-Houston PreK – 8th IB School and the parents of the students attending the school agree that this compact outline how the parents, the entire school staff, and the students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership that will help children achieve the State's high standards. This school-parent compact is effective for the school year 2023-2024.

SCHOOL AGREEMENT

Jefferson-Houston PreK – 8th IB SCHOOL WILL:

- **In alignment with the Alexandria City Strategic Plan, Jefferson-Houston PreK-8 will adhere to the core values of being Welcoming, Empowering, Equity-Focused, Innovative, and Results-Driven.**
- **Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the participating children to meet the state's student academic achievement standards as follows:**
 - Provide motivating and interesting learning experiences in our classrooms.
 - Determine and use techniques and materials that work best for each student to support the curriculum.
 - Maintain the highest learning expectations for our students.
 - Partner with families to offer ways to support their children's learning, such as monitoring attendance, literacy, and technology training, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement and participation in decisions relating to the education of their children and positive use of extracurricular time.

- **Convene an annual meeting** at a time convenient for parents of participating children to inform parents of their school's participation in Title I, the requirements of Title I, the right of the parents to be involved, and solicit feedback on use of PAFE funds.
This year's Title I Night is scheduled for October 04, 2023. All parents shall be invited and encouraged to attend.
- **Hold parent-teacher conferences twice per year during which this compact will be discussed as it relates to the individual child's achievement.**
 - Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on November 3rd and 6th, 2023; and February 15-16, 2024.
 - Conferences can be held any time a parent or teacher requests one due to a concern or need.
- **Provide parents with frequent reports on their children's progress. Specifically, the school will provide reports as follows:**
 - Report cards are sent home at the end of each academic quarter. Report cards will be sent home after the following quarter-end dates: October 24th, January 23rd, March 27th, and June 12th.
 - Parents are also provided reports on their child's progress upon request, through the use of emails, text messages, and/or phone calls.
- **Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of the school's Title I program.**

PRINCIPAL/ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM AGREEMENT

THE JEFFERSON HOUSTON PREK-8 IB SCHOOL PRINCIPAL/ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM WILL:

- Foster and support the implementation of the Family Engagement Policy.
- Foster a positive atmosphere for learning.
- Foster an environment that allows communication between teacher, parent & student.
- Support and attend school functions, committees, and programs.

SCHOOL STAFF AGREEMENT

JEFFERSON HOUSTON PREK-8 SCHOOL STAFF WILL:

- Provide a caring learning environment where we are partners in a child's learning.
- Foster a welcoming environment for families.
- Support and attend school functions.
- Provide an enriched and challenging curriculum, aligned with the ACPS Curriculum, Virginia State Standards and International Baccalaureate framework.
- Provide a nurturing learning environment which fosters healthy social and emotional learning
- Foster an environment that promotes college and career readiness.

PARENT/GUARDIAN AGREEMENT

JEFFERSON HOUSTON PREK-8 SCHOOL PARENTS/GUARDIANS WILL:

- Emphasize punctuality and regular school attendance.
- Inquire about their child's school day and what they are learning.
- Emphasize the completion of all assignments on time.
- Maintain regular school contact through parent/teacher conferences and/or PowerSchool and Canvas updates.
- Make a best effort to participate in at least one school function each year (i.e. PTA, Back to School Night, School Concerts, Parent Coffees, Open House, etc.)

STUDENT AGREEMENT

JEFFERSON HOUSTON PREK-8 SCHOOL STUDENTS WILL:

- Attend school regularly and be punctual.
- Understand the expectations of each course syllabus for their classes.
- Strive to exemplify Jaguar Pride through consistent demonstration of ROARS
- Ask questions and be curious about their learning.
- Engage and be an active participant in their learning and complete all assignments.
- Come to school prepared for learning with necessary materials and/or learn to advocate for themselves when materials are needed (ex. chromebook, agenda books, pens, pencils, binders, etc).

ACPS Curriculum Description

<u>English Language Arts</u> Students in an ELA classroom will learn to communicate, read, write, and research throughout the year.	<u>Mathematics</u> Students will focus on number sense and computation, measurement, geometry, algebra, and data analysis and probability in each grade level.
<u>Science</u> Students will generate and use evidence to develop, refine, and apply scientific explanations. Students will engage in inquiry-based learning including hands-on experience. (i.e. labs)	<u>Social Studies</u> Students will understand our national heritage in order to shape our nation's future. Students will learn to analyze and interpret historical events, people, and places . Teachers will promote a civic-minded, democratic society.
ELECTIVES	
● World Languages: Students will comprehend and communicate in languages other than English. Students will learn skills and knowledge in their foreign language classes that supports their learning in other classes. World Language courses offer students the opportunity to earn high school credit while still in middle school. ● Art: Students will apply creative thinking to communicate personal ideas, experiences, and narratives in works of art. Students will	● AVID: Teachers will prepare students for college readiness and success in a global society. The curriculum features writing, inquiry, collaboration, reading, note-taking and study skills, and college/career/motivational activities. ● Technology and Engineering Education: Students will identify and solve problems using the Engineering Design Process. ○ 6th Grade: Introduction to Technology and Engineering ○ 7th Grade: Inventions and Innovations

analyze, interpret, and evaluate artwork. Teachers will help students **develop communication and collaboration skills** for a community of artists.

- **Band/Orchestra:** Students will build their musical knowledge and skills through experiences in singing, playing instruments, performing rhythms, moving to music, and creating music. Students will use **critical thinking** to **compare and contrast** the functions of music and **investigate** the impact of musicians on the community. Teachers will expose students to music from a variety of cultural influences, styles, composers, and historical periods.
- **Physical Education:** Students will **identify** and **explain** essential health concepts to understand personal health and promote healthy habits.

o **8th Grade:** Technological Systems

Special Programs

- **International Baccalaureate;** Primary and Middle Years Programs
- **English Learner:** The English Learner (EL) program is designed to improve the education of students who come from diverse cultural backgrounds. The program honors EL student's primary language, background knowledge, and experiences. EL students receive differentiated instruction that helps them develop academic language proficiency throughout the year.
- **Advanced Academic Services (AAS)**
- **Special Education Programs**