

# Como Park Elementary School 2023-2024 Family Engagement Plan

Como Park Elementary teachers use the Como Collaborative Instruction Model, which means grade-level teachers work together as a team to support each student’s level of learning. Through caring and collaboration, Como Park Elementary seeks to build a community of lifelong learners demonstrated through strong academic growth and achievement in all subject areas.

The Family Engagement Plan (FEP) is organized into four impact areas. We will work together this year to build positive and goal-oriented relationships in each area. Families and staff at the school developed this plan together.

<b>Welcoming Environment</b>	
<b>Our school has staff member(s) available for families to discuss this plan and ask questions</b>	Jennifer Ewald, Principal Meera Patel, Assistant Principal
<b>Our school communicates with families in many ways.</b>	<p>There are several ways that Como staff communicates with families:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Our school website is a great place to get information about Como. Check it out at <a href="https://www.spps.org/Page/31">https://www.spps.org/Page/31</a></li> <li>• Classroom and School-wide newsletters</li> <li>• Notes home from classroom teachers</li> <li>• Family Calendar</li> <li>• Flyers about specific events</li> <li>• Phone calls/emails from teachers and staff</li> <li>• Phone calls/texts/emails from Blackboard</li> <li>• When families call, email, or send a note, Como teachers and staff do their best to respond within 24 hours.</li> <li>• When families find out who their teacher is for next year, have teachers send home a welcome letter and supply list to their new students!</li> </ul>
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.	For more about our work on racial equity, contact: Jennifer Ewald
Transitions between schools can be challenging, and we work to help	For New Students and Families, we support the transition by

families as their children start and leave our school.

- Hosting a Meet the Teacher/Open House Event during the week before the beginning of the school year.
- Hosting an Open House during February
- In the fall, provide Pre-K students and their families time to visit the Pre-K classrooms, explore the Pre-K spaces, and do some classroom activities.
- Provide Pre-K students and their families time to visit the kindergarten classrooms, meet the kindergarten teachers, and explore the kindergarten spaces year-round.
- Pre-K and Kindergarten students/ families may visit their K/1st-grade classrooms in the spring. They can meet the teachers, explore the learning spaces, engage in grade-level activities, and ask questions about their child's transition to the next grade level.
- If requested, we offer year-round building tours and time to meet with staff for new students, their families, and prospective families.
- Como staff coordinate with Head Start to learn about new students and their educational needs.

**For students and families moving to the next school in their pathway, we support the transition by:**

- Providing time for 5th-grade students to take a field trip to Murray Middle School, where they will tour the building and ask questions to middle school students.
- Invite staff from Murray Middle School to discuss transitions that may happen in middle school.
- Counselors from Murray come to help register interested students.
- Murray Middle School Band comes and performs for the school.
- The school Counselor supports 5th Grade students by helping them register for classes and answering any questions they may have about the process of starting middle school in the fall.
- 5th graders are encouraged to start practicing middle school skills when they can in their schedule. They independently walk to their specialist teachers and the cafeteria to grab lunch starting in the spring.
- Students participate in a middle school practice day- where they practice reading a schedule, transitioning between classes independently, and navigating taking on a 7-period half day. This event happens towards the end of the calendar year.

## Family Partnerships

Our school-parent compact establishes the shared responsibility for student success between the school, families, and students.

**Copies of the compact are available:**

- In the main office

**Families and teachers work together to develop the compact.**

- In classrooms
- On the Como website
- At Family Academic Night
- At parent/teacher conferences
- At the greeting table during National African American Parent Involvement Day
- The compact will be updated: Spring 2024

**There are many opportunities for families to build connections to the school and to each other.**

- Title I Annual Meeting where we will share information about school programs in October 2024
- Virtual Quarterly Como Family Meeting
- Family Fun Nights
- Monthly Assemblies
- Music Concerts
- Classroom activities and presentations
- National African American Parent Involvement Day (NAAPID) in February
- Home Visits
- 5th-grade APTT conferences

We work to make these meetings and events available for every family in the school.

- At most events and meetings, Como provides Karen, Hmong, Somali, Spanish, and other interpreters as needed.
- Como provides childcare or activities for families to do together.
- Como will pay for taxi services to help families attend school functions if transportation is unavailable.
- Como has Hmong, Karen, Somali, and Spanish speakers on staff to aid in interpreting for families. We also have access to Language Line for other languages.
- Como sends out flyers for events that are translated
- We offer meetings at different times during the year to accommodate various schedules.

<p>Our school supports families as advocates and provides opportunities for parent leadership</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● If parents have concerns about their child’s learning, they can contact the teacher and/or the principal by phone, email, or written note.</li> <li>● Staff receive professional development about working with families through their Professional Learning Communities and through after-school professional development.</li> <li>● Families are involved in planning for school improvement and family engagement during monthly “Chats with the Principal” and other advisory meetings with the principal.</li> </ul>
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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"> <li>• Report cards and progress reports will be distributed by teachers at the fall and spring conferences and mailed home at the end of the year.</li> <li>• Parent-Teacher conferences are held in November 2023 and March 2024.</li> <li>• APTT – 5<sup>th</sup> grade Academic Parent Teacher Teams are scheduled for 3 dates during the school year in September, January, and May.</li> <li>• Teachers provide parents with tools to assist their child’s literacy, math, and technology learning during APTT conferences and at African American Family Involvement Day.</li> <li>• Como Elementary has Minnesota Reading Corps tutors to support striving students from Kindergarten through third grade.</li> <li>• Learning Lead coach supports classroom teachers (K-5th grade) in planning for differentiated and targeted instruction. Each grade level team meets weekly to discuss how they will tailor their teaching practices to support the growth of each student in their classroom.</li> <li>• Como provides many links on its website to help families build reading skills at home. Classroom teachers send home books at the student’s “just right” reading level for nightly practice.</li> </ul>
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<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"> <li>• Parent log-in information can be accessed at <a href="http://spps.org/onestop">spps.org/onestop</a> or by asking the school clerk</li> <li>• Como will support parents in understanding iPad usage at school during our fall Open House, APTT conferences, and webpage.</li> <li>• Schoology and/or Seesaw – provide information about the use of these learning management systems at your school</li> </ul>
<p>Many before- and after-school enrichment and support opportunities are available for students</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Como has an Extended Day for Learning (EDL) on Monday and Wednesday after school.</li> </ul>

### Community Partnerships

<p>Our school develops community partnerships to provide additional support for students and their families</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Como has a partnership with North Dale Recreation Center where students participate in after-school programming</li> <li>• Every Meal Program</li> <li>• Field Trips for students across all grade levels (Belwin Conservatory, MN Zoo, Orchestra Hall, Children’s Theater, Gibb’s Farm, etc.)</li> </ul>
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This plan is available as part of our school's SCIP, or School Comprehensive Improvement Plan at [scip.spps.org](http://scip.spps.org), is on our school website at <http://www.spps.org/comoel> and printed copies are available in the office.