



FOUR SEASONS A+

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2023-2024 Family Engagement Plan

Mission Statement

The mission of Four Seasons A+ Elementary School is to build a respectful, successful learning community through art-centered and technology-enhanced practices that develop intelligent behaviors in all students.

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 Engagement Lead: Karen Shanahan karen.shanahan@spps.org or (651) 325-2492
Our school communicates with families in many ways.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Our monthly digital newsletter, <i>Spotlight</i>, is sent at the beginning of each month and provides families with information about our Four Seasons A+ community, including what is happening at each grade level. ● Keep informed about Four Seasons A+ through our website www.spps.org/fourseasons. ● Keep up-to-date with student work through Seesaw (Pre-K - 2 grades) and Schoology (3-5 grades). ● When families call, email, or send a note, we do our best to respond in 24 hours during the school week. ● Four Seasons A+ is exploring an app for whole school communication via text (with translation capabilities) for roll out in the fall of 2023.
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>For more about our work on racial equity, contact: Ryan Fell, Principal ryan.fell@spps.org or (651) (651) 290-7595</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Four Seasons staff uses Zaretta Hammond’s <u>Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain</u> to guide rigorous, equitable academic practices in the classroom. ● Four Seasons staff participates in ongoing equity professional development. ● Four Seasons will continue Innocent Classrooms practices to further our equity work.

Transitions between schools can be challenging, and we work to help families as their children start and leave our school.

For new students and families, we support the transition by:

- Four Seasons A+ holds an Open House for prospective families in January. Before school begins in fall, we host an Open House for new and returning families.
- For students joining Four Seasons during the school year, families are provided a welcome packet and given a school tour. Families are also invited to the monthly (starting in November) Coffee with the Principal.
- We acknowledge that families entering Pre-K and Kindergarten face a big transition. We provide additional support to these families including a spring Family Welcome Event and family conferences before school starts in September. We also partner with the Office of Early Learning to host Pre-K Family Days in fall and spring. During Family Days, families experience what, and how, their child is learning and are invited to ask questions and discuss learning at home and at school.
- Four Seasons A+ has an Early Childhood Special Education program that provides half and full day programs. This program is an excellent entry into our DHH (Deaf & Hard of Hearing) program.

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

- Our School Counselor leads 5th grade classrooms in discussions and workshops around middle school transition including handling peer pressure, exploring expanded opportunities, and understanding middle school schedules.
- Four Seasons A+ is an arts integration school with a pathway to further arts integration at Global Arts Plus and Creative Arts High School. The transition is supported by visits between schools.

Family Partnerships

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.

- **Copies of the compact are available:** During fall conferences, in our main office and posted on our website (www.spps.org/fourseasons)
- The Family School Compact describes school actions and parent actions in support of education. It outlines a partnership to support education. Communication is key to the success of this partnership.
- **The compact will be updated:** Every spring as part of our May Coffee with the Principal and Celebrate Four Seasons/Year in Review event.

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

- **Title I Annual Meeting (We Are Four Seasons A+)** where we will share information about how Title I supports a Four Seasons A+ education, September 18, 2023, 5:00-6:00 pm.
- Regular community gatherings, monthly Coffee with the Principal and two Four Seasons events (We Are Four Seasons A+ and Celebrate Four Seasons A+), to recognize progress, share concerns, raise questions, and plan together for the success of our students. The monthly digital newsletter, *Spotlight*, and website (www.spps.org/fourseasons) will post the dates/times.
- Opportunities to celebrate arts integration through student work occur throughout the year.
- **National African American Parent Involvement Day (NAAPID) will be on February 12, 2024.**
- Home Visits – Four Season A+ teachers participate in Parent Teacher Home Visits. Staff who participate in the Home Visit program are trained by both educators and parents about how to respectfully and authentically engage with families. A key aspect of this training is ensuring that families and educators are meeting each other as equal partners in their student’s education.

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

- Four Seasons A+ have staff who can interpret in Pashto, Spanish, and ASL.
- Staff are encouraged to use the Language Line to connect with families.
- Efforts are made to provide Interpreters in all languages for conferences and APTT
- Spanish and Pashto Interpreters are available for Fall Open House and Coffee with the Principal.
- Translations are available upon request.
- Understanding our families have varied schedules, Four Seasons A+ holds meetings at a variety of times.
- Four Seasons A+ holds both virtual and in-person events.
- Transportation is available upon request to events.
- Four Seasons A+ embraces diversity. Our MLL staff collaborate with classroom teachers, our building interpreters, and the Language Line to reach families whose first language is not English.

Our school supports families as advocates and provides opportunities for parent leadership

- If parents have concerns about their child's learning, the process at Four Seasons A+ Elementary School is to start discussion with the classroom teacher (involving MLL staff or Special Education staff as needed). Then to approach the Principal. If the concern has been referred to the Principal and a resolution has not been gained, next involve the district Ombudsperson.
- The district has an Ombudsperson available to help resolve conflict between families and schools. The Ombudsperson is a person who listens to and investigates complaints against Saint Paul Public Schools, its programs, offices and staff. The Ombudsperson does not take sides. She works with parents, community members and the school district to clarify and resolve questions, concerns and complaints in a fair and timely manner. The services of the Ombudsperson are free. Our Ombudsperson is Desiree' Payne, at (651) 767-8394 or desiree.payne@spps.org.
- Four Seasons A+ staff engage in professional development around family engagement during Opening Week. A Family Engagement Committee meets monthly throughout the year to continually improve our family engagement practices.
- In spring, families will be invited to a Celebrate Four Seasons A+/Year in Review event where the Family Engagement Plan, SCIP, and Compacts will be reviewed and revised.

Teaching and Learning

Our school shares information about state standards, assessment and student achievement with families in multiple ways

- **Report cards and progress reports will be shared** during fall (November) and spring (March) conferences.
- **Parent-Teacher conferences are held November 5, 8, 10 and March 26, 28, 29.** We offer in-person, virtual conference, and phone conferences.
- APTT (Academic Parent Teacher Teams) – D/HH, K, and 1st grade teachers are trained in APTT. Trained staff invite families to participate in APTT to look at standards, review progress, build capacity, and plan goals. These groups meet in fall, winter and spring to review student progress.
- In addition to sharing curriculum and standards information during conferences and APTT, families can access curriculum and standards information, as well as teaching practices, on the grade level pages of the Four Seasons website, www.spps.org/fourseasons.
- Classrooms post curriculum information monthly in The Spotlight. Teachers reach out to families regularly regarding student progress in multiple areas.
- A WINN reading specialist will work with K-2 classrooms to provide additional small group support in literacy.
- A SIPPS (Systematic Instruction in Phonological Awareness, Phonics, and Sight Words) reading specialist will work with grades 3-5 to provide additional small group support in literacy.

Our school will engage in personalized learning as a key strategy to accelerate student achievement. Parents can get more information using many tools.

- Campus Parent login information can be accessed at spps.org/onestop or by asking the school clerk.
- Saint Paul Public Schools is a one-to-one district supplying each student with an iPad to help differentiate instruction and to provide an opportunity for learning from home (e-learning days).
- Seesaw (PreK-2) and Schoology (3-5) are used to inform parents of student progress and share student work.

Many before- and after-school enrichment and support opportunities are available for students

- (EDL) Extended Day Learning is being considered for Four Seasons A+. Information will be provided in the fall.
- Four Seasons A+ connects families to opportunities in the community through: St. Paul Parks & Recreation, Community Education, Boys & Girls Clubs and other organizations through our website, monthly Spotlight, and flyer distribution.

Community Partnerships

Our school develops community partnerships to provide additional support for students and their families

- AMAZEworks
- Bell Museum
- Big Brother Big Sisters
- Hiway Federal Credit Union
- The Kennedy Center (Kennedy Center Arts Edge)
- Macalester College
- Merriam Park Community Center
- Merriam Park Library
- Minnesota Children's Theater
- National Theater for Children
- Ordway
- Phillips Eye Institute
- University of St. Thomas
- 3M

This plan is available as part of our school's SCIP, or School Comprehensive Improvement Plan, and is posted on our school website at www.spps.org/fourseasons. Printed copies are available in the office. Translations are available upon request.