

# Nokomis Montessori North campus

## 2023-2024 Family Engagement Plan

### School Introduction:

Students at Nokomis Montessori North campus, serving the east side of Saint Paul, learn in multi-grade classrooms. We are a Montessori School utilizing the Montessori method and blend in components of Reader's workshop and Writer's workshop. Students learn in a noncompetitive environment and use special Montessori materials that help them understand concepts and skills. Differentiated instruction is embedded in the Montessori methodology. Students in a Montessori environment learn strategies to think and work independently. The Montessori teaching style and classroom organization maximizes the school learning environment and student behavior.

**Vision:** Our vision is to create a school community which stays true to our unique Montessori philosophy and methodology; where students and staff achieve individual learning success by nurturing our creativity in a clean, beautiful, peaceful environment.

**Mission:** Through collaboration, Montessori methodology, and culturally relevant instruction, Nokomis will provide an inclusive and positive learning environment that nurtures successful guided learning for every student.

### Special qualities:

- All-Day Pre-K program
- All-day Kindergarten
- Multi-grade classrooms
  - Specialists include Art, Music, Physical Education and Science
- Discovery Club Program at L'Etoile du Nord French Immersion (fee based before or after school)
- Active parent/family participation.

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.

<b>Welcoming Environment</b>	
<b>Our school has staff member(s) available for families to discuss this plan and ask questions</b>	<b>• Family Liaison: Assistant Principal</b>

<p><b>Our school communicates with families in many ways.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Email welcome back to school letters to families August</li> <li>● <b>Welcome Back to School Open House/PTO Ice Cream Social - Thursday, August 31, 2023 from 5:00-6:30 p.m.</b> The Nokomis Montessori Calendar including Title I Compact and Title I Family Engagement Plan is available on the school website.</li> <li>● <b>Children’s House Montessori Teachers meet with all PreK and Kindergarten students and parents at conferences on Tuesday, September 5 - Wednesday, September 6, 2023.</b></li> <li>● PTO parents/families meet monthly</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● When parents/families call, email or send a note, we do our best to respond within 24 hours</li> <li>● Information is sent home to families in backpacks in Nokomis Friday folders.</li> <li>● Messages are sent to families through the communication system Connect Ed by email and text to promote family participation in school events and to communicate important messages from the school or district</li> <li>● The principal writes a monthly Nokomis Montessori newsletter including updated monthly calendar posted on school website</li> <li>● Montessori teachers communicate regularly with parents using newsletters or See Saw to share student work and to promote school events</li> </ul>
<p><b>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.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>For more about our work on racial equity, contact: Theresa Thao-Yang, Principal</b></li> </ul>

<p><b>Transitions between schools can be challenging, and we work to help families as their children start and leave our school.</b></p>	<p><b>For new students and families, we support the transition by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● PreK and Kindergarten students remain with the same Children’s House (preK-K) Montessori teacher for two years.</li> <li>● New student orientation is scheduled for Tuesday, May 21, 2024, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. It will include parents and students visiting Children’s House classrooms, a tour of the school and an informational session. During registration, the special education team will support students who receive special education services through the registration process. The clerk and the administrative team will support registration of students who are accepted after new student registration by offering information about the school and a tour of classrooms as they register.</li> <li>● We encourage parents to bring younger siblings to school events to support a positive transition to school.</li> <li>● Nokomis is a popular choice for East Side parents/families.</li> <li>● <b>The School Choice Fair is on Saturday, December 9, 2023, from 9:30- 2:00 at Xcel RiverCentre in St. Paul.</b> Nokomis North is part of the School Choice Fair for prospective families. Families of students going on to middle school will want to attend the School Choice Fair to visit with the middle schools.</li> <li>● Prospective students and families are offered weekly tours during the months of January and February to visit classrooms and learn about our Montessori program. Contact the school office at 651-744-7440 to schedule a tour in January, February and other times during the year.</li> <li>● Nokomis North will also hold an <b>Prospective Family Open House on Thursday, February 1, 2024, from 5:30-6:30 p.m.</b> for prospective families to tour the school and learn about the Montessori program.</li> <li>● For students and families moving to the next school in their pathway, we support the transition by:</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other middle schools such as E Stem will come to Nokomis to share about their programming.</li> <li>• The school counselor facilitates five class lessons with our fifth grade students to support the transition to middle school. Skills are reviewed to support a positive transition: organization skills, reading a schedule, opening a locker/lock and understanding peer pressure.</li> <li>• Secondary schools: outline college and career programs and support available (dual credit, CTE, etc)</li> </ul>

<b>Family Partnerships</b>	
<p><b>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.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Copies of the compact are available: Nokomis Montessori Calendar; teachers distribute at the beginning of the year; school website; review at fall and spring parent-teacher conferences; a poster in lobby; copies available in the school office.</li> <li>• The compact was updated: June 2023</li> <li>• Montessori Teachers will review the compact with parents/families at the <b>Title I Annual Meeting - Montessori Math Games and Parent Education Night</b> scheduled for <b>Thursday, October 12, 2023, from 5:30-6:30.</b></li> </ul>

<p><b>There are many opportunities for families to build connections to the school and to each other.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Title I Annual Meeting - Montessori Math Games and Parent Education Night where we will share information about school programs is on Thursday, October 12, 2023, from 5:30-6:30 p.m.</b></li> <li>● Students stay with the same Montessori teacher Children’s House (CH), grades PreK-K; Elementary 1 (E1), grades 1-3; and Elementary 2 (E2), grades 4-5. This results in a stronger relationship between teacher-student-parents siblings.</li> <li>● Teachers trained in the SPFT Home Visit project will continue completing home visits.</li> <li>● Bilingual Hmong &amp; Spanish speaking staff members are available during the school day.</li> <li>● Interpreters are arranged for Parent-Teacher conferences and school events as needed by the ELL teacher team. • Translations in Hmong, Spanish, Somali, Karen and other languages are available as needed.</li> <li>● Taxi transportation is available for school day or evening events.</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>PTO Fall Festival on Thursday, Oct. 26, 2023, from 5:30-7:30 p.m.</b></li> <li>● <b>Hmong New Year Celebration is Friday, December 8, 2023.</b></li> <li>● <b>Prospective Family Open House is scheduled for Thursday, February 1, 2024, to promote our program to new prospective parents.</b></li> <li>● <b>National African American Parent Involvement Day (NAAPID) is Monday, February 12, 2024.</b> An assembly is planned for that day at Nokomis North.</li> <li>● Students perform by class at one of three assemblies (International Peace Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day &amp; Earth Day) are planned during the 2023-2024 school year. Parents and families are invited.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>We work to make these meetings and events available for every family in the school.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Title I Annual Meeting - Montessori Math Games and Parent Education Night scheduled for Thursday, October 12, 2023, from 5:30-6:30.</b></li> <li>● We serve a family light dinner and provide interpreters to boost parent involvement.</li> <li>● The Principal writes and distributes a monthly newsletter to promote participation in our school activities including PTO events and to provide other important information. Our monthly newsletter and calendars are posted on our school website.</li> <li>● We have bilingual Hmong and Spanish speaking staff members available during the school day. We can use the online interpreter service as needed. Our EL teacher team coordinates interpreters for parent-teacher conferences. Hmong and Spanish interpreters will assist with other parent events such as Montessori Parent Education, and other events as requested. Nokomis provides translations in Hmong, Spanish, Somali, Karen and other languages as needed.</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● We schedule day and evening conferences to promote parent participation.</li> <li>● Food is frequently provided at school events to promote parent involvement.</li> <li>● Taxi transportation is available for day and evening events.</li> <li>● Parents of students recommended by teachers for Summer School will receive information on the program. Students who register will receive additional academic support in this free district summer school program.</li> </ul>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Our school supports families as advocates and provides opportunities for parent leadership</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We encourage parents to contact their child’s Montessori, EL, Special Education or specialist teachers (art, physical education, music and science) as a first step in communicating.. Direct phone numbers and email addresses are listed in our Nokomis Montessori School Calendar or by calling the school office at 651-744-7440.</li> <li>• The principal welcomes parent and community input as voices are critical for a successful partnership.</li> <li>• Nokomis will continue home visits by teachers who have completed SPFT Home Visit training.</li> <li>• Nokomis is a Restorative Practice site. Restorative Practices core values align with the Montessori Philosophy, which will be a core practice in all aspects of our climate for all students and adults.</li> <li>• The principal frequently embeds professional development about working with families at staff meetings, team meetings and one-to-one conversations with all staff members.</li> <li>• Nokomis reviews our Title I Compact, SCIP and Family Engagement Plan</li> <li>• The principal schedules time at monthly Leadership team and monthly PTO.</li> </ul>
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**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 distributed at November and March parent-teacher conferences. Nokomis North has a history of high percentage of parents participating in parent-teacher conferences. Saint Paul Public Schools will mail end of the year progress reports in June to parents.
- Parent-Teacher conferences are held in the Montessori classrooms.
- Teachers will share FAST reading assessment data with our K-5 parents during parent-teacher conferences. Teachers focus on teaching guided reading groups and use FAST reading assessment data to inform instructional next steps. At Nokomis a literacy teacher provides tier one guided reading support with the classroom teacher, as well as targeted reading intervention groups for struggling students in grades K-5. Nokomis offers home reading strategies to parents to strengthen student achievement.
- Teachers share math student progress at November and March Parent-Teacher Conferences. Teachers focus on math instructional interventions and offer home math strategies to parents to strengthen math student achievement.
- Our ELL teachers share ELL progress reports at November and March Parent-Teacher conferences. ELL teachers share W-APT for Kindergarten ACCESS test data for grades 1-5 at November conferences. ELL teachers provide academic language support to our grade K-5 students.
- Special education teachers share progress reports at November and March Parent-Teacher conferences.
- **Title I Annual Meeting - Montessori Math Games and Parent Education Night is scheduled on Thursday, October 12, 2023, from 5:30-6:30 p.m., with a family dinner from 5:30 – 6:00 p.m.** Montessori Teachers facilitate presentations.
- **Elementary Schools:**  
K-3 teachers communicate regularly with parents about reading progress and share strategies to strengthen reading progress.



	K-3 teachers encourage K-3 students to participate in summer school to receive additional academic support.
<b>Our school will engage in personalized learning as a key strategy to accelerate student achievement. Parents can get more information using many tools.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Parent log-in information can be accessed at <a href="https://spps.org/onestop">spps.org/onestop</a> or by asking the school clerk Paula McGaughey. Reminder, <u>Parent Portal shows attendance only in elementary schools.</u></li> <li>● Nokomis use iPads to support student learning at school and home.</li> <li>● Seesaw – Teachers use Seesaw to communicate with parents including sharing student work</li> </ul>
<b>Many before- and after-school enrichment and support opportunities are available for students</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Discovery Club at L’Etoile du Nord French Immersion campus is offered and is a fee-based childcare program (before, after, and no school days).</li> <li>● Hazel Park Recreation Center offers after school Rec Check and no-school days childcare</li> </ul>

### **Community Partnerships**

<b>Community Partnerships</b>	
Our school develops community partnerships to provide additional support for students and their families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Collaboration with Hazel Park Recreation Center to offer after school Rec Check free after school childcare and/or no school days in October, Winter Break and Spring Break</li> <li>● Family Revelation. An ongoing partnership with local artists has been created to provide annual arts-in-residencies in our E2 classrooms funded by our service learning E2 Fun Fair</li> </ul>

This plan is available as part of our school’s SCIP, or School Comprehensive Improvement Plan at [spps.org/scip](https://spps.org/scip), is on our school website at [school.spps.org](https://school.spps.org), and printed copies are available in the office.

