

## Nokomis Montessori North campus

### 2020-2021 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 child centered and peaceful environment.

**Mission:** Through collaboration, Montessori methodology, and culturally relevant Instruction, Nokomis will provide a 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
- Discovery Club Program at Nokomis Montessori South campus (fee based before or after school)
- ALC Extended Day Classes (twice a week)
- High 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.

Welcoming Environment	
<p><b>Our school has staff member(s) available for families to discuss this plan and ask questions</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Family Liaison: Terri Jackson, Principal</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Our school communicates with families in many ways.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New principal will continue to mail two welcome back to school letters to all families in August 2020</li> <li>• Open House is scheduled on Thursday, August 27th, 2020 from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. We distribute a 2020-2021 Nokomis Montessori Calendar &amp; Parent Handbook including Title I Compact and Title I Family Engagement Plan.</li> <li>• CH Montessori Teachers meet with all PreK and Kindergarten parents on September 2 &amp; 3..</li> <li>• PTO meetings meet monthly.</li> <li>• Nokomis Climate Advisory Team (NCAT) meets monthly at Nokomis Montessori North as supports Positive climate and the implementations of Restorative Practices.</li> </ul>

	<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>• Principal writes ongoing messages for Clerk to send using district Connect Ed to send email &amp; text messages to promote family participation in school events</li> <li>• Principal writes 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 or 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: Terri Jackson, 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>• Our PreK and Kindergarten students remain with the same CH Montessori teacher for two years.</li> <li>• New student orientation will be scheduled in May. It will include parents and students visit CH classrooms, tour of the school and informational session. Special education team supported IEP students during registration. Clerk and Administrative team support registration of parents/students accepted after new student registration offering information about the school and 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. We begin our marketing season at our district <b>School Choice Fair</b> in January 2021.</li> <li>• We offer prospective students and families weekly tours during the month of January and Feb. to visit classrooms learn about our Montessori program.</li> <li>• We will also hold an Open House scheduled at 6 pm for prospective families and students to tour our school and learn about our Montessori program.</li> </ul> <p><b>For students and families moving to the next school in their pathway, we support the transition by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our fifth grade students visit Parkway in January 2021 as our pathway school. Parkway provides a bus for our students.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other Middle school such as E Stem, also will come to Nokomis to share about their programming.</li> <li>• Our school counselor facilitates five class lessons with our fifth grade students to support the transition to Middle School. She reviews these skills to support a positive transition: organization skills, reading a schedule, opening a locker/lock, peer pressure.</li> <li>• <b>Secondary schools:</b> outline college and career programs and support available (dual credit, CTE, etc)</li> </ul>
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Family Partnerships	
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<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>• <b>Copies of the compact are available:</b> 2020-2021 Nokomis Montessori Calendar; Montessori &amp; Autism Teachers distribute at the beginning of the year; school website; review at fall and spring parent-teacher conferences; poster in lobby; and copies available in the school office.</li> <li>• <b>The compact will be updated:</b> May 2021</li> <li>• Montessori Teachers will review with parents/families at the Montessori Parent Education Night scheduled on Thursday, September 17, 2020.</li> </ul>
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<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 where we will share information about school programs at Family Lunch on Friday, October 2nd, 2020</b></li> <li>• <b>National African American Parent Involvement Day (NAAPID) will be on February 8, 2021.</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. There is high student stability at Nokomis Montessori.</li> <li>• Teachers trained in 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 ELL teacher team.</li> <li>• 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> <li>• <b>PTO Fall Festival</b> is scheduled on Thursday, October 29, 2020, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. including flu shot clinic from 5:00-7:00 p.m.</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hmong New Year</b> is scheduled on Friday, December 4, 2020. Our Hmong CLAnD students perform at our Hmong New Year Celebration.</li> <li>• <b>Open House</b> is scheduled in Feb. 2021 @ 6:00 p.m. to promote our program to new prospective parents.</li> <li>• <b>National African American Parent Involvement Day (NAAPID)</b> is scheduled on Monday February 8, 2021. We invite parents to come for lunch with their child.</li> <li>• <b>E2 Fun Fair</b> is TBD.</li> <li>• <b>Volunteer Appreciation</b> is scheduled in May 2021.</li> <li>• <b>EDL Band &amp; Strings Concert</b> is scheduled in May 2020 with after school performance and afternoon performance (if aligns with EDL Band/Strings teacher schedule) .</li> <li>• Students perform by class at <b>one of three assemblies</b> (International Peace Day, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day &amp; Earth Day) are planned during the 2020-2021 school year. Parents and families are invited to participate in the day assembly.</li> <li>• Nokomis <b>North Climate Advisory Team (NCAT)</b> was created December 2016 to create and maintain a positive school climate using restorative practices where staff and parents belong to NCAT. NCAT is recruiting in creative ways to bolster parent membership. Free school-age childcare is available to support parent involvement.</li> </ul>
<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>• We distribute a <b>2020-2021 Nokomis Montessori North School Calendar &amp; Parent Handbook</b> including Title I Family Engagement Plan and Title I Compact at Open House.</li> <li>• We launch the school year with <b>Montessori Parent Education</b> in September. We serve a family light dinner and provide school-age childcare and interpreters to boost parent involvement.</li> <li>• The Principal writes and distributes a monthly newsletter to promote participation in our school activities including lunch menu, PTA newsletter and 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.</li> <li>• The principal arranges Hmong and Spanish interpreters to assist with other parent events such as Montessori Parent Education, and other events as requested.</li> <li>• We provide translations in Hmong, Spanish, Somali, Karen and other languages as needed.</li> <li>• We schedule day and evening conferences to promote parent participation.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>• Principal writes message for Clerk to send to parents of students recommended by teachers for Summer School who haven't registered in late April to encourage to register to receive additional academic support in free district summer school programs.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Our school supports families as advocates and provides opportunities for parent leadership</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We encourage parents to contact their child's Montessori, EL, Special Education or Prep teachers as a first step. Direct phone numbers and email addresses are listed in our 2020-2021 Nokomis Montessori School Calendar &amp; Parent Handbook.</li> <li>• The Principal welcome parent and community input as their voices are critical for successful partnership.</li> <li>• We will continue home visits as several teachers completed SPFT Home Visit training.</li> <li>• We are a year 3 pilot site for Restorative Practice in 2020-2021 and plan to communicate action steps in monthly newsletter. Restorative Practices will be implemented also at monthly Nokomis Climate Advisory Team meetings.</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>• We reviewed our 2020-2021 Title I Compact, 2020-2021 SCIP and 2020-2021 Family Engagement Plan at our May 27, 2020 PTO/NCAT virtual Meeting.</li> <li>• Principal schedules time at monthly Leadership team and monthly PTO/NCAT meetings to monitor progress on SCIP 2020-2021 and 2020-2021 Title I Family Engagement Plan.</li> </ul>

Teaching and Learning	
<p><b>Our school shares information about state standards, assessment and student achievement with families in multiple ways</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Report cards and progress reports will be distributed</b> at November 2020 and March 2021 parent-teacher conferences. We have a history of high percentage of</li> </ul>

	<p>parents participating in parent-teacher conferences at Nokomis Montessori North campus. Our district mails June progress report to parents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Parent-Teacher conferences are held in Montessori and Autism teacher classrooms.</b></li> <li>• 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. Our Literacy teacher provides targeted reading intervention groups to struggling students in grades 1-5. We register our struggling grade 3-5 students for EDL after school classes. We offer home reading strategies to parents to strengthen reading students achievement.</li> <li>• Teachers share math student progress at November and March Parent-Teacher conferences. Teachers focus on math instructional interventions, recommend students for EDL after school classes and offer home math strategies to parents to strengthen math student achievement.</li> <li>• Our EL teachers share EL Progress reports at November and March Parent-Teacher conferences. Principal encourages EL teachers to participate in parent- teacher conferences of our highest need students. ELLteachers 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.</li> <li>• Our Special Education teachers share Special Education Progress reports at November and March Parent-Teacher conferences. Principal encourages EL teachers to participate in parent- teacher conferences of our highest need students.</li> <li>• Montessori Parent Education Night is scheduled on Thursday, September 17, 2019 from 5:30-7:00 p.m., with a family dinner between 5:30 – 6:00 p.m. Montessori Teachers facilitate presentations. Free school age childcare is provided.</li> <li>• Our K-3 students bring home reading book bags to support daily reading at home.</li> <li>• <b>Family Nights aligned with SCIP – Reading:</b> We are planning a mid-year evening family event to share reading strategies to use at home with your PreK grade 5 child. Our reading intervention teacher funded by Title I will share reading strategies. <b>Math:</b> We are planning a mid-year evening CH, E1 and E2 math make and take learning to support learning at home.</li> <li>• <b>Elementary Schools:</b> Our CH and E1 Montessori teachers send home weekly book bags (including sight word rings for Kindergarten students) to encourage reading at home. Our K-3 teachers communicate regularly with parents</li> </ul>
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	<p>about reading progress and share strategies to strengthen reading progress including completing weekly homework. Our E1 teachers encourage our struggling students to participate in EDL classes for additional academic support. Our K-3 teachers encourage K-3 students to participate in Summer School to receive additional academic support.</p>
<p><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></p>	<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>• We use iPads to support student learning at school. Student iPads remain at school.</li> <li>• Seesaw – Teachers use Seesaw to communicate with parents including sharing student work</li> </ul>
<p><b>Many before- and after-school enrichment and support opportunities are available for students</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EDL classes on Monday (Reading focus) &amp; Wednesday (Math focus).</li> <li>• EDL Band/Strings for grades 4-5 students.</li> <li>• Discovery Club at Nokomis Montessori South campus is offered and is a fee-based childcare program (before, after, and no school day).</li> <li>• Hmong CLANd after school classes are offered to prepare our students to perform at December Hmong New Year Celebration.</li> <li>• Hazel Park Recreation Center offers after school Rec Check and no-school days childcare</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>• We will continue our partnership with Minneapolis Institute of Arts “Art Adventures” including parent art volunteers and field trips to MIA.</li> <li>• Collaboration with Hazel Park Recreation Center to offer after school Rec Check free after school childcare and/or no school days in October 2020, Winter Break 2020-2021 and Spring Break 2021.</li> <li>• Family Revelation.</li> <li>• 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.