



# GROVELAND PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## 2021-22 Family Engagement Plan

Our school feels like a small learning community, yet with all the opportunities available in a large urban school. Partnerships with local universities and community organizations, such as the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra CONNECT Program, enable us to offer many rich educational experiences. Childcare before and after school is offered through the S'more Fun program and offsite Discovery Club. Dedicated parents help raise funds each year for fine arts enrichment residencies. Each fall our fifth-grade classes travel to an environmental camp near Ely, Minnesota, for several days. Science, music and physical education teachers provide a well-rounded school experience. Past and present, Groveland's unique ability to challenge and support all learners is founded on the positive relationships built in our diverse learning community.

Groveland's mission is to create a supporting community that honors, inspires and challenges every child, every day. 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. (Some activities, events may change due to COVID-19 possible restrictions.)

Welcoming Environment	
<b>Our school has staff member(s) available for families to discuss this plan and ask questions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Family Liaison:</b></li><li>● Sarah Lightner –Principal – (Spanish)</li><li>● Kelli McCully - ELL Teacher – (Spanish)</li><li>● Askale Yigletu – Bilingual ELL Educational Assistant -(Oromo, Amharic)</li><li>● Regan Fox - Title I - Teacher</li></ul>
<b>Our school communicates with families in many ways.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Student classroom news is shared through an e-mail sent out by the classroom teacher or in paper form.</li><li>● A school newsletter, Panda Paws, is sent out two times a month by e-mail or in paper form (family preference).</li><li>● Translators are available either through the people listed above – Spanish, Oromo and Amharic - or through the Language Line, (school sets up for families).</li><li>● News about upcoming events and the Groveland Handbook is on the <a href="http://spps.org/groveland">spps.org/groveland</a> website.</li><li>● Families may communicate by phone 651-293-8760, e-mail or note. We do our best to respond within 24 hours.</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The school sign in front of the building will have upcoming events.</li> <li>● Extra fliers for events are available in the office.</li> <li>● The school sends out messages by phone, e-mail and text through Connect 5, a district system of communication.</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>● For more about our work on racial equity, contact: Sarah Lightner and Staff on the Racial Equity/Leadership Team.</li> <li>● Groveland staff has participated in Beyond Diversity Training and racial equity professional development. Staff uses the Courageous Conversation About Race Protocol—Four Agreements, and has ongoing professional racial equity training.</li> <li>● Refer to the School Continuous Improvement Plan (SCIP) for school goals which directly relate to the achievement/opportunity gap. It can be found at <a href="http://spps.org/scip">spps.org/scip</a></li> <li>● Interpreters available during Welcome Back to School Night</li> <li>● Interpreters available during parent-teacher conferences or any other event by request.</li> <li>● Parents of ELL students may have interpreters for any of the family events</li> <li>● Childcare and transportation available for PTO meetings; Transportation available for family events; Interpreters available upon request</li> <li>● The Language Line is utilized for families on a regular basis when in-person interpretation is not available.</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>● Tours take place throughout the year for students and families who are entering Groveland in the present school year. Tours begin in late October for next school year.</li> <li>● Prospective students can shadow a student at Groveland – scheduled by family and school.</li> <li>● Welcome Back to School Night – Thurs., Sept. 2 – 4:00-6:00pm</li> <li>● Flu Clinic during Welcome Back to School Night</li> <li>● PreK and K conferences – Sept. 9-10, 2021</li> <li>● Groveland Handbook is on the <a href="http://spps.org/groveland">spps.org/groveland</a> website</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>● Middle School staff visit Groveland Gr. 5 students in late winter</li> <li>● Providing information to families about the School Choice Fair</li> <li>● PreK visit to kindergarten classrooms in the spring</li> </ul>



## Family Partnerships

<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></li> <li>● Welcome Back to School - Thurs., Sept. 2 - 4:00-6:00 p.m.</li> <li>● PreK and K Conferences on Sept.9-10</li> <li>● Panda Paws Newsletter</li> <li>● Annual Fall Title I Meeting on October 26, 2021</li> <li>● Spps.org/groveland website under Title I page</li> <li>● Parent Teacher Conferences in November 2021</li> <li>● Main Office at Groveland</li> <li>● <b>The compact will be updated:</b> Spring 2022 during Title I/PTO meetings</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>● Welcome Back to School - Thurs., Sept. 2 - 4:00-6:00 p.m.; staff will share curriculum and assessments</li> <li>● PreK and K Conferences on Sept. 9-10</li> <li>● PTO Meeting – Thurs., Sept. 30 – 6:00-7:30 p.m. and monthly throughout the 2021-22 school year</li> <li>● Panda Paws Newsletter</li> <li>● Fall and Spring Parent Teacher Conferences</li> <li>● National African American Parent Involvement Day (NAAPID)</li> <li>● PTO Fundraiser - APEX FUN RUN</li> <li>● PreK, Kindergarten Orientation and New Students</li> <li>● Groveland Carnival</li> <li>● Grade 5 Last Walk Down Front Steps – Fri., June 10 – 3:50 p.m.</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>● Interpreters available during Welcome Back to School Night</li> <li>● Interpreters available during parent-teacher conferences or any other event by request.</li> <li>● Parents of ELL students may have interpreters for any of the family events</li> <li>● Childcare and transportation available for PTO meetings; Transportation available for family events; Interpreters available upon request</li> <li>● The Language Line is utilized for families on a regular basis when in-person interpretation is not available.</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>● Parents may e-mail, call or set up a conference with the student’s teacher and/or social worker, counselor or principal if they have concerns about their child. ·</li> <li>● Parents can share their strengths and talents in multiple ways with students and the school community: Through volunteering in classrooms, PTO, and by sharing culture with classrooms. ·</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Bus concerns - contact Toni LaValla, clerk, for bus route issues and Sarah Lightner or Jamel Long for bus behavioral questions/concerns. Call 651-293-8760 ·</li> <li>● Families may also contact Dana Abrams, District Ombudsperson, if they have a specific concern that has not been resolved. Contact Ms. Abrams at 651-767-8394 or <a href="mailto:dana.abrams@spps.org">dana.abrams@spps.org</a> ·</li> <li>● Staff receive in-service training to work with families during professional development days and staff meetings. ·</li> <li>● Families can be involved with planning for school improvement and family engagement through PTO meetings and a variety of volunteer activities. Families can be involved in the development of the School Comprehensive Improvement Plan (SCIP) through PTO meetings.</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>● Report cards/progress reports will be distributed during November and March conferences. The end of the year progress reports will be mailed out at the end of June. State standards for grade levels are included with the progress reports and given to families.</li> <li>● Parent-Teacher Fall and Spring Conferences for grades PreK-5.</li> <li>● Annual Fall Title I Meeting: October 26, 2021</li> <li>● Annual Spring Title I Meeting: May 19, 2021</li> <li>● K-3 students who are reading below grade level: Parents are informed at conferences and other times throughout the year if their K-3 student is not on track for grade level reading. Students in grade 3 have an opportunity to attend the Extended Day for Learning after school program. Students in</li> </ul>

	<p>K-3 who are below grade level in literacy will work with their teacher and family to build specific literacy skills. This could also include S-Term for grades K-3.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Families have access to online reading free through a variety of programs including <a href="https://sppl.org/library-go/">https://sppl.org/library-go/</a></li> </ul>
<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</li> <li>All students in grades PreK-5 will have an iPad assigned to. Students will have technology security lessons at the beginning of the year.</li> <li>iPads are used in all grade levels to personalize learning.</li> <li>Schoology – This tool is used by upper grade teachers as a way to put learning online for students. Students post their work on Schoology as well.</li> <li>Seesaw – Grade PreK-2 classrooms use Seesaw as the platform for their online learning. Teachers post instruction/curriculum on Seesaw and students post work.</li> <li>Schoology and/or Seesaw – provide information about the use of these learning management systems at your school</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>A variety of after school classes are taught through the Groveland Recreation Center. Flyers are available to families through the rec center and the Groveland office. Class information is also sent home through the school newsletter, Panda Paws.</li> </ul>

<b>Community Partnerships</b>	
<p>Our school develops community partnerships to provide additional support for students and their families</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Groveland has been part of the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra CONNECT programs for over 20 years. We value our partnership with SPCO which engages students and their families in music in so many ways. Families may attend SPCO concerts at very reduced rates. Tickets are available on the <a href="https://spps.org/groveland">spps.org/groveland</a> website.</li> <li>The University of St. Thomas has student teachers and field experience students who come to Groveland as tutors and student teachers.</li> <li>Minnesota Reading and Math Corp Tutors work with Groveland students for additional support in reading/math.</li> <li>Parents and community volunteers tutor Groveland students during the school day.</li> <li>The PTO sponsors various art enrichments for the school.</li> <li>Vision Screening – Phillips Eye institute</li> </ul>

- |  |   |
|--|---|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dental – Children’s Dental Services</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 [spps.org/groveland](https://spps.org/groveland) and printed copies are available in the office.