

# Long Prairie-Grey Eagle Elementary School



## Family Engagement Policy & Teacher/Parent/Student Compact

Revised June 3, 2019

### **Purpose of Family Engagement:**

Establishing systematic, ongoing family engagement is essential for a strong home-school partnership. Schools can develop partnerships in many ways; but there are several common elements that signal strong parental involvement on behalf of their students at school. Strong family-school partnerships include the following common elements:

1. Communication with families is one of the highest priorities. This is accomplished using a variety of effective communication tools to meet individual family needs. Consider communicating in non-traditional ways.
2. Families periodically and routinely are asked how the school is doing in meeting their children's education needs and how the school can be welcoming to families.
3. Students and families are comfortable offering suggestions to staff and administrators.
4. The school's actions and activities indicate respect for the ethnic diversity in the school.
5. The school offers opportunities for families to increase their own ability to become actively involved; e.g., helps families get the necessary information to make informed choices about schools.
6. School staff is responsive and returns calls in a timely fashion, even when the answer is not readily available. Families know that staff care and are looking into their questions.

### **Different Ways Families are Involved In Education**

Parents are involved in student learning in a variety of ways. The following points present basic ways in which parents support learning. School personnel can work with parents to understand how to be the best at those areas that are available to them:

#### **Parenting and Learning at Home:**

1. Provide your child/children with good nutrition and proper hygiene.
2. Limit television and screen time for children, and monitor types of programs that your children watch.

3. Teach children readiness skills. Here are some skills to get your child/children ready for kindergarten.

Source: <https://www.education.com/magazine/article/kindergarten-readiness-secrets>)

#### **A. Writing**

- 1.) Help your child practice writing letters, especially the letters in her name.
- 2.) Teach your child how to write her name with an uppercase first letter and the remaining letters in lowercase.
- 3.) Write in shaving cream in the bathtub, salt or sugar in a cake pan or in finger paint to make practicing more fun and multisensory.

#### **B. Letter Recognition**

- 1.) Play games to help your child recognize some letters of the alphabet.
- 2.) Play hide and seek with refrigerator magnets.
- 3.) Rather than drilling your child with flashcards, use them to play a game of alphabet go fish.

#### **C. Beginning Sounds**

- 1.) Make your child aware of the sound that each letter makes.
- 2.) Find items around the house that begin with the same sound and identify the letter that makes each sound.
- 3.) Overemphasize the first sound in words to help your child hear the individual sounds in words.

#### **D. Number Recognition and Counting**

- 1.) Count throughout the day (for example, the crackers she is eating for snack or the socks in that you take out of the dryer).
- 2.) Point out numbers you see in your environment and have your child name them (for example, the numbers found on food boxes or street signs).

#### **E. Shapes and Colors**

- 1.) If your child is having trouble recognizing certain colors, you might add a little food coloring to cookie dough, milk or vanilla pudding to emphasize those colors.
- 2.) Help your child recognize more difficult shapes such as diamonds and rectangles by showing her how to draw them on paper and cut them out.

- 3.) Play games in which your child finds objects of particular colors and shapes around the house or in the neighborhood as you drive.

#### **F. Fine Motor Skills**

- 1.) Give your child several different writing options (colored pencils, crayons or markers) to help keep her interested in writing and drawing.
- 2.) Playing with playdough is a fun way to strengthen the muscles of the hand that will be used for writing.

#### **G. Cutting**

- 1.) Purchase a good pair of child-safe scissors and let your child practice.
- 2.) Give her old magazines or newspapers to cut up, or allow her to make a collage of the things she likes by cutting them from magazines and gluing them to a piece of paper.
- 3.) Cutting play dough is also fun for children.

#### **H. Reading Readiness**

- 1.) Run your finger under the words as you read to your child to help her learn that words go from left to right and top to bottom.
- 2.) Play games with rhyming words to help your child hear similar sounds in words. For example, as you are going up the stairs, name one word that rhymes with cat for each step as you go up.

#### **I. Attention and Following Directions**

- 1.) Read lots of stories with your child and work up to reading longer chapter books, one chapter each night or as long as she remains interested and focused.
- 2.) Give your child two and three step directions. For example: "put on your pajamas, brush your teeth and pick a book to read."
- 3.) Play Simon Says with two or three step directions. For example: "Simon Says jump up and down and shout hooray."

#### **J. Social Skills**

- 1.) Give your children opportunities to interact with other children in preschool, church or social groups or play dates.
- 2.) Teach your child how to express her feelings if she doesn't like something.

3.) Role-play different situations she might experience on the playground or at school. Help her find solutions for typical problems she might encounter.

4. Teach children how to respect adults, other children, and property.

**Communicating: Talking to teachers and school staff**

1. At school, on the phone, or in the neighborhood
2. Calling in to report absences when children are ill
3. Informing teachers and school nurses of health concerns and problems with children
4. Attending school conferences
5. Attending PTO or parent group meetings
6. Email
7. School website, Twitter, Facebook

**Volunteering:**

1. Coming to school to help with class work
2. Going on field trips
3. Reading to students or listening to students read in the class
4. Sharing things from your culture in your child's classes: dance, music, art, food, customs
5. Read with or to your child daily

**Inform school of community resources that are available in your community:**

1. Communicate school concerns to community programs and groups
2. Celebrate school successes with community groups
3. Inform school personnel of what is happening in your children's schools

**Leadership in School Decisions:**

1. Agree to serve on various school committees such as district leadership, curriculum, and federal programs.
2. Agree to serve as a representative from the school or community on district-wide committees.
3. Become a member of the LPGE Parent Teacher Organization (PTO).

**When parents are involved:**

1. Students do better academically.
2. Students do better academically.
3. Students are better behaved.
4. Students have pride in themselves, their school, their community, their peers, and their culture.

**Opportunities for Family Engagement at LPGE**

1. Parent Teacher Organization
2. Open House/Parent Teacher Conferences
3. Family Fun Activities:
  - Lights on Afterschool Night: October
  - I Scream for Books: November
  - Books and Breakfast: February
  - Grade Level Activities: Monthly
  - Parent Education Sessions (Quarterly)
  - Family Fun Day in April
4. School Dances
5. Community Education Classes for Adults and Students
6. Music Programs
7. Winter/Spring Art Shows
8. Early Childhood Education (Preschool and Headstart)
9. Classroom Volunteers/School Parties/Field Trips
10. Cinco de Mayo in May
11. Teacher/Student Recognition(Student of the Month; Preschool, Kindergarten, and 6<sup>th</sup> Grades Recognition; and Staff Appreciation Week)
12. Talent Show
13. Fundraising Projects/Color Dash
14. LPGE After School Program (BOLT)

**Communication**

LPGE values the importance of family involvement in all aspects of a child's learning. Parents are informed of schools events that involve their children. Through the use of email, school website, phone, notes, and assignment books, parents are kept up-to-date on the progress of their children both academically and socially.

The school's website is the most current way to access your child's attendance, grades, assignments, lunch accounts, and discipline. To log on, go to [www.lpge.org](http://www.lpge.org). Next, click on the Family Access Link. You should have a Login and Password that will allow you access to your child/children's information. If you do not have a login or password or forgot it, please contact the school offices. Daily activities and events going on in our school are also found on the website.

Email is another quick way to get information from the school. Families are encouraged to use email to communicate with school personnel.

### **Evaluation**

Quarterly Parent/Community Advisory Council meetings will be held quarterly to review the impact of parent involvement at LPGE. This is made up of representatives from Title I, Title III, and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center.

### **Teacher/Parent/Student Compact**

This compact will be reviewed by the instructional staff and handed out to parents at the August 28 Conferences/Open House by LPGE staff. This document states the responsibilities of the teacher, parent, staff, and students to ensure that he/she will have a successful school year. Each classroom teacher will turned in a signed Compact to the elementary office.

### **Long Prairie Grey Eagle Elementary School's Parent-Teacher-Student Compact**

#### **Updated: June 3, 2019-A Requirement of Title I**

**LPGE Elementary believes that families and school staff should work in partnership to help each student reach his/her highest potential. As partners, we agree to do the following:**

#### **As a Teacher:**

- 1.) I will have high expectations for the school staff, my students, and myself.
- 2.) I will continue to progress monitor my students' progress both academically and socially.
- 3.) I will support and facilitate the learning needs of all my students through differentiated instruction, accommodations, and IEPs.
- 4.) I will maintain open communication with staff and parents/guardians regarding academic and social growth of my students.
- 5.) I will support and facilitate a safe, positive, and engaging learning environment.

**As a Parent/Guardian:**

- 1.) I will support my child by attending conferences, classroom, and school activities.
- 2.) I will monitor my child's progress and attendance through good communication with teachers.
- 3.) I will help my child to have a positive attitude and be respectful of their peers and teachers.
- 4.) I will talk to my child about what is happening in and what they are learning in school.
- 5.) I will read with or encourage my child to read everyday.

**As a Student:**

- 1.) I will have a positive attitude toward school and learning.
- 2.) I will treat my teachers and classmates with respect and kindness.
- 3.) I will ask for help when I need it.
- 4.) I will talk to my parents about what is happening in and what I am learning in school.
- 5.) I will read or be read to each night.

This information was reviewed by parents and teachers on **Wednesday, August 28, 2019** at **LPGE Elementary Open House**.

**Teacher Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** **August 28, 2018**

**(Please ensure each parent receives a copy)**  
**(Please return signed copy to Elementary Office)**