

2020-21 Barnum Elementary School Family Engagement Plan

(PreK-6th grade)

Barnum Elementary School
 3813 E. North Street
 Barnum, MN 55707
 218-389-6976

School Mission:

Where everyone is inspired to excel in academics, character, and citizenship

School Vision:

Barnum Elementary School provides a personalized learning environment utilizing the best teaching practices to ensure a productive citizenry which values a lifelong celebration of learning.

The Family Engagement Plan (FEP) is organized into 3 impact areas: (1) Welcoming Environment; 2) Family & Community Partnerships; 3) Teaching and Learning;

Welcoming Environment	
Our school has a staff member available for families to discuss this plan and ask questions.	<input type="checkbox"/> Title 1 Coordinator: Nikki Biondich nbiondich@isd91.org
Our School Communicates with families in many ways	Our school communicates with families by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Schoolwide monthly newsletters from the office are posted on our website and print versions are available in the office. <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly or monthly newsletters from classroom teachers; additionally, many teachers use apps to communicate with families. <input type="checkbox"/> We update our website regularly. <input type="checkbox"/> Staff members contact families with positive e-mails or phone calls <input type="checkbox"/> When families call, e-mail, text, or send a note, we do our best to respond within 24 hours during the work week.

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

We support transitions by:

- ❑ We host 2 kindergarten transition evenings. Families and teachers attend this event. Children participate in math, literacy, or social-emotional activities while parents have time with teachers to learn about ways to support learning in the home.
- ❑ Kindergarten round up. This event occurs in spring of each year. Future kindergarteners and their families attend.
- ❑ Kinder-Camp in August. Incoming kindergarteners attend Kinder-Camp for 3 days for 2 hours/day. Children learn routines and this provides a final transition to Kdg.
- ❑ Kindergarten conference. The first day of school is set aside for parents and teachers to confer about procedures, rules, student needs and goals.
- ❑ 6th grade transition: During the spring of 6th grade, students spend a day at the high school learning about the schedule, routines, and connecting with students and staff.
- ❑ PreK on site; This program is offered through Community Ed. The 3's program is 2 half days/week; the 4 year old program is 3 half days/week
- ❑ Beginndergarten is also on site and offered through Community Ed. This program is intended for young 5 year olds or older 4 year olds. Most students attend 4 days/week in either the am or pm. A few attend all day.
- ❑ Open House: we host an open house each fall to welcome families. This is an information event where teachers communicate the learning outcomes for the year, grade level expectations, and other information that is valuable for parents to know.
- ❑ School tours available upon request

Family & Community Partnerships

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

- Title 1 Annual Meeting
- PTO
- Parent Teacher Conferences
- Science Fair
- Talent Show
- Field Trip chaperones
- Open House
- Winter Concert
- Field Day
- Reading Corps
- Family Learning Events

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 compact are available:** Barnum Elementary School partners with families to develop the compact. Compacts are available on our website, in the main office, and during our our Parent Teacher conferences. They will also be available during the Title One info session in October.
- The compact will be updated yearly with parent input.

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

- If parents have concerns about their child's learning the process at Barnum Elementary is to start discussion with classroom teacher (involving support staff as needed). Then to approach an administrator.
- Our staff has ongoing equity training which encourages conversations with families.
- PTO meets on the first Monday of each month.
- Parent-Focus group meets to plan, review and improve the compact and family engagement plan in the spring.

Teaching and Learning

Our school shares information about student achievement with families in multiple ways

- Report cards are distributed 2 times a year: January and June
- Parent teacher conferences are held 2x/year: October and February
- Additional parent teacher conferences are available upon request
- Barnum Elementary will provide specific information on students' reading in grade K-6 during our fall and winter conferences. This information will provide an opportunity for parents, students and teachers to form goals together.

Specific ways families partner with Barnum Elementary School:

- Students in grades K-6 read at home each night for 10-30 minutes, depending on grade level.
- Minnesota Reading Corps members use data driven interventions to tutor students in reading. Tutors work with students daily, one-on-one or in small groups, for 20 minutes. Parents are notified of their student's involvement in this program.
- Partnership with PTO to provide students free books
 - Birthday Books distributed each month
 - Free books distributed at conferences and the end of the year.

Our school will engage families in personalized learning as a key strategy to accelerate student achievement.

- Barnum Elementary School students use iPads in the classroom. Teachers attend a yearly professional development on personalized learning. Examples include NASC and Gathering of Great Minds.
- Staff uses See/Saw and Schoology and other apps or social media platforms to inform parents of classroom happenings and showcase student

	work samples.
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