



2016 – 2017SY
General Course Catalogue

**Metro Nashville Public Schools’
Parent Training Program**

A partnership between



About the Parent University Program

OUR MISSION: The mission of the MNPS Parent University program is to provide MNPS parents and caregivers training, resources, and access to skills and services which **grow**, **achieve**, and **empower** greater levels of advocacy for children, schools, and community.

OUR PURPOSE: To provide families access to knowledge relating to student learning, the workings of our school system, and skills in advocacy and educational support.

WHAT WE DO: Parent University affords a unique opportunity for parents, schools, and community to become jointly involved in education by providing training and resources to families that are directly linked to student learning and will aid parents in their essential responsibility for influencing the lives of children.

LINKED TO LEARNING: The focus of our program is based on the Dual Capacity Framework for Family-School Partnerships. Initiatives are aligned with school and district achievement goals and connect families to the teaching and learning goals by enhancing parents'

Capabilities: Human Capital, Skills, and Knowledge

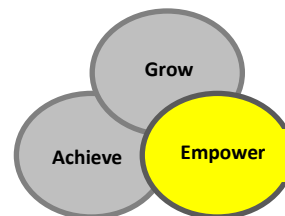
Connections: Important Relationships and Networks—Social Capital

Confidence: Individual Level of Self-Efficacy

Cognition: Assumptions, Beliefs, and Worldview

Read more at <http://www2.ed.gov/documents/family-community/partners-education.pdf>

Training and events provided by Parent University are linked to the 2018 District Strategic Plan for Empowerment. All schools level course offerings through the MNPS Parent University are FREE to MNPS schools and parents. Trainings are supported with Title 1 funds, Safe and Supportive Schools grant, and a PTA funding.



Attendance Matters: This presentation will help parents better understand the correlation between school attendance and academic success. It offers strategies to maintaining required school attendance and ways to partner with school staff when assistance is needed.

School Options: With all the school options available in MNPS, choosing the right school for your child is essential. This presentation will assist parents in the selection school choice when deciding on the right fit for their child, and their family.

The Effective School-Parent Conference: This session provides parents with information, tips, and key questions to assist in preparing for an effective parent/teacher conference.

Effective Two-Way Communication: Effective communication is key to advocating for your child. This session offers parents helpful strategies for effective and improved communication with schools.

Classroom at Your Fingertips: This session will inform families on the new student information system (Family Portal) and demonstrate the access to greater communication between teachers and families through emails, messages and mobile alerts. Using the MNPS Family Portal, families can see real-time grades, homework, upcoming due dates, attendance information, discipline information and more.

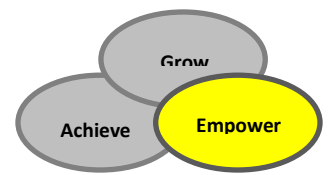
Internet Safety/Social Media 101: The internet is a very useful tool. This presentation will provide families with updated information in order to keep it a safe household tool. Parents will receive relevant information on internet access and social media apps, strategies and solutions to help stay safe while online and using social networking. (Presented by our community partners NPL and The Technology Council)

State Standards: This session will offer parents information on State Standards and resources and strategies that will assist parents in helping their child adapt to the new learning goals. (Presented in collaboration with District Coaches)

Helping My Child With Homework: Homework task can be a daunting task. This session will provide parents with helpful tools and strategies for supporting students' at home.

What Does the Data Say & Test Support Strategies: This session will provide parents with a clear understanding of the academic data captured for their children and how it is utilized to measure growth. (Presented in collaboration with District Coaches)

Navigating the Maze of Exceptional Education: This session will provide parents with the information they need to have a productive, meaningful Individualized Education Program (IEP) meeting. (Presented by the Exceptional Ed. Department)



College of Social/Emotional Development and Health Awareness

Car Seat Safety: The proper use of car seats and booster seats can help prevent many child injuries and deaths. Learn how to properly install your child's car seat to make sure your loved ones are buckled in securely. Families needing a seat can receive a free car seat if the child with them to be properly measured. (TA: For parents of young children required to be in a car seat)

Helping Your Child ACE's Childhood Experiences: How do we enhance the lives of youth? We're taking a close look at the social and emotional needs of children, brain development, and reflecting on meaningful ways to support our youth for brighter futures. (Presented by community partners)

Academic Transitions (Readiness): This session will assist parents with resources and information to help ensure students move through their educational career with the academic, social, and emotional skills necessary to succeed. (TA: Pre-K and Middle School)

Co-Parenting: This four-hour educational class for divorcing, single, and deployed parents is focused on the needs of children during this time of transition and adjustment. This class meets the guidelines of the Tennessee Parenting Law. This will be two two-hour sessions. After completion parents will receive a certificate recognized by Tennessee Court. (Presented in partnership with licensed counseling services)

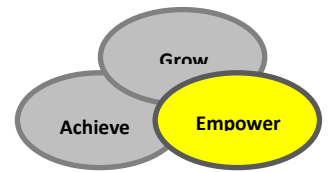
Positive Parenting: This session is an interactive discussion that provides parents with tips and strategies for positive parenting and discipline.

Bullying Awareness: This session provides MNPS parents with an understanding of "bullying", how to prevent bullying and what to do if your child is faced with bullying.

Drug Awareness: This session provides MNPS parents with an understanding of substance awareness with our youth and tips for recognizing the signs of possible drug use. (Presented in partnership with MNPS)

Gang Awareness: This session provides MNPS parents with an understanding of gang awareness and tips for recognizing the signs of potential gang involvement. (Presented in partnership with expert community support organizations)

Health Fairs: This offering provides MNPS schools and parents a host of community resources that relate to health issues.



ES.2 & ES.3

Understanding the Impact of Rights, Responsibilities, & Relationships in Disciplining

Restoratively: This discussion will give parents the opportunity to understand the new discipline policy and learn how disciplining restoratively creates better relationships fostering a sense of community.

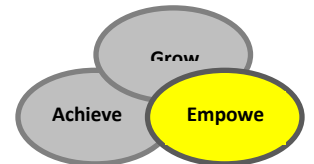
Building Parent Advocacy: This session works with parents to build social capital and parenting networks in order to develop self-efficacy and advocacy.

Parent Leadership: This training builds the capacity and confidence of parents to develop leadership qualities, build on effective communication techniques, create action plans, and learn community resources. (In partnership with a PTA grant funding)

Parents and the School Improvement Plan: This session seeks to help parents understand the School Improvement Plan. It builds capacity for schools and parent to work together in developing and implementing the plan.

Developing a PTO/PTA/SSO: This training provides parent leaders with assistance in organizing a school support group and building advocacy for students, schools, and community. (In partnership with MNPS Business Office)

Parent Focus Groups: The purpose of the parent focus group is to focus on a particular discussion topic. The groups are used to gather qualitative data to help understand parent perspectives on certain topics. These focus groups help explain and expand results of survey data. Most importantly it allows for parents to feel involved and to feel a part of the school community.



College Financial Empowerment, College Access, and Workforce & Skill Development

(All presented in partnership with skilled organizations)

ES.2 & ES.3

College Preparation: This session provides MNPS parents with information and resources to assist their students with college financial preparation and college access.

Your Financial Well-Being: This presentation is in partnership with other not-for-profit agencies to offer families details on a number of financially-related topics to empower families to take control of their finances, keep what they earn and plan for their own financial future.

Job Readiness/Job Fairs: This service is in partnership with other not-for-profit agencies to offer parents opportunities for career growth and employment opportunities

College of Digital Learning

Attendance Matters

<https://www.kidcentraltn.com/article/back-to-school-help-kids-keep-their-attendance-up-video-feature>

The Student-Parent Handbook

<https://vimeo.com/user18850347/review/156602426/899af81f3a>

PARENTS ARE OUR 1ST PARTNERS is a four week training series. The sessions include:

1. Effective Two-Way Communication
2. What Does the Data Say (focusing on attendance, Parent Portal, basic assessment information, and testing strategies),
3. Navigating the Maze of Exceptional Education
4. Parent Leadership.

Other sessions can be selected based on school goals. All sessions are offered by MNPS departments.

[To view the Parent University General Course Catalogue please click here.](#)

To request Parent University please visit the following link.

[Request a Parent University Session](#)

or email

Parent University at Parent.University@MNPS.org

Request should be submitted at least four weeks prior to the requested date.

Please note: Parent University will be responsible for securing guest speakers, providing a draft flyer, certificates for training series, and planning and preparation. The requesting school will be primarily responsible communicating the event notice to school families, assisting in the planning, interpretation services, and coordination training on the day of event.

For more information contact:

Pamela Burgess,
 Program Manager at
Pamela.Burgess@mnps.org
 615-800-9554
 Or
 Marianne Beebe,
 Program Secretary at
Marianne.Beebe@mnps.org
 615-298-6752



MNPS Parent University - Impact Form

Date: _____ Title of Training Session/Event: _____

Your Child's School: _____

In the department of Community and Family Partnerships, our goal is to enhance the capacity of MNPS staff and families in the four C's: Capabilities, Connections, Cognitions, and Confidence. Please complete the following form about how today's session/event may have impacted each of those areas.

Capabilities:

1. Write at least two key terms or skills you learned today.

Connections:

2. Write the names of at least two people or organizations you now have in your network to help you engage with MNPS families, staff, or community resources:

3. Write one goal around today's topic that involves taking an action step within the next 3 months. Then, write the name of the person who will hold you accountable for taking action towards achieving your goal.

Goal:

The person who will hold you accountable:

Rate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following items by circling your answer choice.

Cognitions:

4. My views about today's topic areas have positively changed as a result of the workshop.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Sure
5. After attending this workshop, I feel more committed to working with school staff to support learning at home.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Sure

Confidence:

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Sure
--	----------------	-------	----------	-------------------	----------