resolutions
5th Annual MNPS Family Engagement Summit
A day of professional learning for MNPS educators
January 4, 2017
Welcome to the 5th Annual MNPS Family Engagement Summit!

January 4, 2017

Administrators, Teachers, and School Staff:

On behalf of the district, I want to welcome you to the 5th annual Metro Nashville Public Schools Family Engagement Summit. As a leader, an educator and as a parent, I feel strongly that family engagement is critical to student success. I’ve been clear since my interviews with the district that family engagement is one of my top priorities, and I’m so glad that you’ve made it a priority to attend this summit.

Many of us come into the teaching profession knowing about content, curriculum, and classroom management, but not family engagement. In a survey put out to our MNPS teachers last year, only 45% of you felt that your formal education prepared you through theory and practice how to effectively engage families and only 41% of you agreed that you had adequate professional development opportunities to engage topics like family engagement, equity and diversity, and community involvement. Today is an opportunity to fill in some gaps that your teacher prep programs left and to engage in critical dialogues that you want to be having.

As a district, we define family engagement as collaboration between families and educators that accelerates student learning. We believe that collaboration takes place in building trusting relationships, partnering in academics, and having meaningful, ongoing communication. And we know that in order to collaborate, we must first have welcoming school cultures where families feel invited to be a part of their children’s education. All of the sessions today are geared around these core elements and all of them look at these elements through the lens of equity.

I hope that you will challenge yourself today to be fully present, to attend sessions that will enhance your practice, and to get comfortable with being a little uncomfortable. There must be a sense of urgency about our work; we don’t have time to waste for our students. And we know that families are a critical piece to student success.

Thank you for participating in this important professional learning opportunity.

Sincerely,

Shawn Joseph, Ed.D.
Today’s Schedule

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>7:00-8:00</td>
<td>Registration &amp; Breakfast</td>
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<td>8:00-8:45</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Allison Buzard @AllisonBuzard, @F_E_Univeristy</td>
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<td>Molly Sehring @MNPSFamilies</td>
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<td>Dr. Maritza Gonzalez @DraMaritzaG</td>
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<td>Dr. Deborah Boyd @LipscombCofEd</td>
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<td>Dr. Candice McQueen @McQueenCandice</td>
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<td>Terry Vo @ComcastCares</td>
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<td>8:45-9:05</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>9:05-10:15</td>
<td>Workshop Session #1</td>
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<td>10:15-10:35</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>10:35-11:45</td>
<td>Workshop Session #2</td>
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<td>11:45-1:30</td>
<td>Lunch &amp; Keynote Address</td>
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<td>Introduction: Gini Pupo Walker @ginipupo, @ConexionEd</td>
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<td>Keynote: Melissa Bryant, Educator DC Public Schools @iedifyminds</td>
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<td>1:30-1:50</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>1:50-3:00</td>
<td>Workshop Session #3</td>
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<td>3:00-3:10</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>3:10-4:00</td>
<td>Resolutions, Toasts, &amp; Drawings</td>
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<td>Toasts</td>
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<td>Megan Barry @MayorMeganBarry</td>
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<td>Dr. Shawn Joseph @MNPSdirector</td>
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<td>Dr. Monique Felder @MoniqueFelder</td>
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<td>Dr. Sito Narcisse @sitonarcisse</td>
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<td>Molly Sehring @MNPSFamilies</td>
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Introduction to “Resolutions”

New years are often synonymous with new beginnings and fresh starts. We all came to the Summit today with our own experiences, expertise, and beliefs. Regardless of whether we feel like experts or rookies in family engagement, we can all continue to refine our skills and increase our knowledge. All of today’s sessions focus on welcoming families, building trusting relationships, partnering in academics, and communicating effectively. Our hope is that today is a day of capacity-building and an opportunity to make new resolutions for our family engagement practices!
Please join us for a luncheon and keynote address in Allen Arena at 11:45

MELISSA BRYANT

Melissa Bryant, a finalist for the 2014 Fishman Prize for Superlative Classroom Practice, has been transforming lives in NYC and DC classrooms for over a decade. Melissa has produced extraordinary results. For the last several years every one of her students has outperformed their typical peers in DC Public Schools. In 2012, she earned a Rubenstein Award for Highly Effective Teaching. She brings to her classroom an electric presence and an unyielding commitment to her students’ success. Currently, as the Director of Culture and a member of the Family Engagement Leadership Team, Melissa credits her success to her constant positive outreach with students and families.

What is family engagement?

Collaboration between families and educators that accelerates student learning.

Flamboyan Foundation
### Workshops at a Glance (descriptions to follow)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Breakout Session 1 - 9:05-10:15</th>
<th>Welcoming School Culture</th>
<th>Building Trusting Relationships</th>
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<td>Swang 102 Foundations for Family Engagement</td>
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<td>Ezell 207 How Can I Engage and Empower Non English Language Background (NELB) Families?</td>
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Workshop Session 1: 9:05-10:15

Embracing a Culturally Relevant Engagement Strategy with Latino Families
Jermaine Soto, M.Ed, Training and Leadership Development Manager at Conexión Américas and Adjunct Professor at Belmont University & Maria P. Zapata, M.Ed., Family Engagement Manager at Conexión Américas
@conexion_tn
Ezell 136
This workshop will create a dialogic space for participants to better understand Latino identity and engage in activities that can create and strengthen culturally relevant interactions between school staff and Latino parents.

Engaging Families Restoratively
Anthony Hall & LeTicia Taylor, M.Ed, ES, MNPS Office of Restorative Practices
@TaylorMade1280 @MNPSRestorative
Ezell 107
Supporting Restorative Practices creates better relationships and fosters a sense of community. This discussion will give participants the opportunity to understand the new student/parent handbook and how the responses are set up in a Restorative manner. Participants will leave feeling informed and aware of strategies they can be use in the classroom and how they will reverberate throughout the school when applied in a strategic, intentional, and consistent manner.

Establishing Open Mindsets and Healthy Boundaries with Family Engagement
Julie Simone M.Ed. Instructor in Education, Lead Faculty Liaison for Teach For America
@JulieSimone3 @LipscombCofEd
Ezell 363
What sometimes gets in the way of engaging our families? How does staying out of blame, judgment, shame, pity, lowered expectations, and deficit thinking increase family engagement and student outcomes? This workshop offers a compassionate and empathetic invitation to reflect on one’s own thinking, identify triggers, set boundaries, and create a vision for family engagement grounded in the most gracious assumptions of our neighbors.

Family Engagement: Where are All the Men and Fathers?
Kevin McKenzie, BS, MSP, Family Involvement Specialist McGavock Cluster & Robert Taylor, MPA, Family Involvement Specialist Whites Creek Cluster, MNPS Department of Family and Community Partnerships
@robtay_erryday, @MNPSFamilies
Swang 242
The purpose of this training is to discuss the importance of fathers in the lives of their children and leave with a plan for improving father engagement in your school. By the completion of this workshop you should be able to: Understand the importance of male/father engagement, learn about local and national resources for male/father engagement, assess the “Father Friendliness” of your site, and develop a plan to become more male/father friendly.

FAST: Family Academic Success Teams
Tremeta J. Norman, M.Ed., Family Involvement Specialist Maplewood Cluster & Cam Wingfield, Family Involvement Specialist Cane Ridge Cluster
@tlovejoyy80 @CamWingfield @MNPSFamilies
Ezell 109
The use of Family Academic Success Teams is a highly effective strategy for families to become intentionally involved in their child’s academic success. This model bridges communication between teachers and families about specific student data and empowers them with tools to support learning at home. Hear from MNPS staff who have successfully implemented this model and consider if this might work at your school.

Fostering Relationships with Immigrant and Refugee Parents to Promote School Success and Student Social-Emotional Wellbeing
Becky Castillo, LMSW, LSSW, Lauren Ensminger, LSSW, MSW, and Zurely Pereira-Borres, LSSW, MSW, MNPS Social Workers
@MNPSSocialWork
Ezell 244
In this workshop, we will discuss the stressors and traumas experienced by refugees and immigrants and how they can impact school success. We will offer insight into best practices for building mutually beneficial partnerships between school and home.
Foundations for Family Engagement
Allison Buzard, MSW, Family Engagement University Manager & Mariana Merritt, MSW, Family Engagement Coach
@AllisonBuzard @MarianaGMerritt @MNPSFamilies @MNPSPreK
Swang 102
Research tells us that family engagement is critical to student success. Polls tell us that teachers believe that family engagement is critical to student success. But data also tells us that teachers have received little to no training about how to engage families. This workshop will explore foundations and framework for deeply impactful teacher family engagement through discussion, exercise, and planning.

How Can I Engage and Empower Non-English Language Background (NELB) Families?
Rubén E. De Peña, MLS, EL Family & Community Liaison & Renee Thessing, M.Ed., EL Family & Community Specialist, MNPS Office of English Learners @rubendepena @MNPS_EL
Ezell 207
While the correlation between student achievement and family engagement is a common knowledge among educators, many teachers struggle to engage NELB families in the education process due to many barriers. This session provides strategies on how to best engage NELB families and provides information on specific MNPS programs where families can learn more about their school, district, and the community to be better equipped to help their children succeed.

How to Create a Culturally Responsive Classroom
Tasha Fletcher, Building Bridges Camp Director and Program Specialist at The Oasis Center @oasiscenter
Swang 110
Learn tangible ways to create a classroom where all young people feel welcomed, empowered, affirmed and how to make parents and families a part of your classroom culture.

Infinite Campus Family Portal
Lance Lott, MNPS Director, Enterprise Development Services, MNPS Technology & Information Services, Molly Sehring, Director of MNPS Family and Community Partnerships @MNPSFamilies
Ezell 234
At last, the Family Portal is here! In addition to demonstrating its features and capabilities, we’ll discuss the power of the portal in communicating and partnering with parents in support of their child’s academic progress.

The Journey of Student-Led Conferences
Carly Price, MAT, DAST, Seth Swihart, M.Ed., NBCT, JT Moore Middle Prep, an IB World School @JTM_IB
Swang 230
Student-led conferences were a tremendous success at our school this year. See how our journey could help your school engage more families, empower students, and bring faculties together. Hear from an administrator, an instructional coach, teachers, parents, and students.

Library Resources for Immigrant Parents
Megan Godbey Nashville Public Library @AdultLitNPL
Ezell 205
Learn about free online resources for language learning, HiSet prep, citizenship prep, and more available through the Nashville Public Library. These tools help immigrant parents to reach their educational, communication, and professional goals.

Linked to Learning: Creating a High-Impact Family Engagement Event
Brinn Obermiller, MS, Tennessee Department of Education/Division of Consolidated Planning & Monitoring @TNedu
Swang 232
Participants will explore the Dual Capacity Framework for Family-School Partnerships and learn to use interactive strategies to embed best practices into family engagement events. This session will focus on building a family engagement event that is linked to learning, relational, developmental, collaborative, and interactive.
Strategies for Partnering with Families in Early Childhood
Presenters: Kathryn Addison & Tiffany Rhodes, Metro Nashville Public Schools Pre-K Family Involvement Specialists
@MNPSPreK
Swang 118
In this session we will discuss ways to create partnerships with families of our early learners as well as strengthening existing relationships. Join us as we mix-up ingredients to build the best recipes for Family-School Partnerships with our families!

The Power of Perception
Jill Peeples, Family Relations Coordinator, M.Ed. & Allison D’Aurora, Community Engagement Coordinator, MNPS Communications @jillpeeples1 @acdaurora @metroschools
Swang 112
Remember a time you felt valued, welcomed and part of something much bigger than yourself? That's what we want our parents to feel like when they are interacting with Metro Schools. Come to our session to get practical tips on how we can provide these services for those that are our biggest partners in educating our students, our families.

Restorative Practice and Implicit Bias in School Discipline
Melissa Gordon, IIRP Licensed Trainer, & Lamar Moore, MNPS Office of Restorative Practices @MNPSRestorative
Ezell 138
Implicit bias creates barriers to developing strong relationships in school communities. We will explore ways for school communities to use restorative practices to minimize implicit bias and foster cultural understanding.
Upcoming Family Engagement University Sessions

**Effective Family Engagement**
2/9/17 – 9:00am-3:00pm
During this interactive training, we will fuse family engagement research with best practices for our MNPS context. Together, we will explore barriers to family engagement and brainstorm how to overcome those barriers. This training will include planning time.

**Engaging Hard to Reach Families**
4/18/17 – 9:00am-3:00pm
During this interactive training, we will explore why it’s hard to reach some families and brainstorm how to overcome barriers and build relationships with all of our students’ families. This training includes brainstorming, group discussion, role play, and self-reflection.

**Culturally Responsive Family Engagement**
5/9/17 – 9:00am-3:00pm
During this interactive training, we will explore the concept of cultural humility, unpack how attitudes and beliefs impact our classroom, and explore how to welcome all families as partners. This training happens through group discussion, facilitation, activities, and planning.

Search “Family Engagement University” in Schoolnet to sign up

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**Core Beliefs About Families**

- All families have dreams for their children and want the best for them
- All families have the capacity to support their children’s learning
- Families and school staff should be equal partners in their children’s learning
- The responsibility for building partnerships between school and home rests primarily with school staff, especially school leaders

Karen Mapp & Anne Henderson, Beyond the Bake Sale
Workshop Session 2: 10:35-11:45

An Engaging Proposition: Leveraging Tech to Engage Students and Families  
Jason Bihler and Giunara Duhart, Instructional Designers, MNPS Learning Technology and Library Services  
@idesignlt @marriedew @mnpslearningtec  
Swang 242  
Engage in strategies and practices for using technology to create a more personalized and blended learning environment for students and families.

Creative Ways to Connect, Dialogue, and Celebrate Parents  
Terrica Simms, M.Ed, PE Teacher, Cane Ridge Elementary & Nicole Vaughn, M.Ed, Community Achieves Coordinator Two Rivers Middle Prep  
@justliveready @commachieves  
Swang 232  
This workshop will engage participants in learning techniques on how to welcome parents whether they are picking up their child early, passing the teacher in the hallway, spending time in the classroom, or attending a school workshop/event. The facilitators will teach quick and easy team building exercises that teachers can use to welcome families and make them feel valued in the classroom or at a school event.

Cultural Humility as the Foundation for Family Engagement  
Mariana Merritt, MSW, Family Engagement Coach  
@MarianaGMerritt @MNPSPreK @MNPSFamilies  
Ezell 107  
Join us as we create a safe place to examine our own perceptions, assumptions, and understanding of others, particularly of families. We will explore the framework of cultural humility as opposed to cultural competence and talk about how we can best equip ourselves to forge genuine and effective partnerships with the wonderfully diverse families of our school district. Join in this interactive, thought-provoking workshop. Participants will partake in small and large group discussion, work through a case study, and benefit from guided self-reflection.

Embracing a Culturally Relevant Engagement Strategy with Latino Families  
Jermaine Soto, M.Ed, Training and Leadership Development Manager at Conexión Américas and Adjunct Professor at Belmont University & Maria P. Zapata, M.Ed., Family Engagement Manager at Conexión Américas  
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Flavors of Family Engagement  
Marcia Blatchford, MNPS Pre-K Teacher & Meredith McKinney, M.S., MNPS PreK Family Involvement Specialist, @MNPSPreK  
Ezell 138  
Join us as we sample family engagement strategies and approaches in a buffet style atmosphere. Participants will be able to preview a menu of options and then have support thinking through how to best apply interventions and strategies to their classrooms or schools. Come ready to walk away with a full plate of things you can implement with your pre-k and early childhood families!
**Fostering Relationships with Immigrant and Refugee Parents to Promote School Success and Student Social-Emotional Wellbeing**

*Becky Castillo, LMSW, LSSW, Lauren Ensminger, LSSW, MSW, and Zurely Pereira-Borres, LSSW, MSW, MNPS Social Workers @MNPSSocialWork*

Ezell 244

In this workshop, we will discuss the stressors and traumas experienced by refugees and immigrants and how they can impact school success. We will offer insight into best practices for building mutually beneficial partnerships between school and home.

**How to Create a Culturally Responsive Classroom**

*Tasha Fletcher, Building Bridges Camp Director and Program Specialist at The Oasis Center @oasiscenter*

Swang 110

Learn tangible ways to create a classroom where all young people feel welcomed, empowered, affirmed and how to make parents and families a part of your classroom culture.

**How to Work Effectively with an Interpreter**

*Clemencia Donovan, NELB Language Coordinator & Manuel Diaz de Leon, Language Translation Specialist, MNPS Office of English Learners @MNPS_EL*

Ezell 205

This presentation will give an overview of how to work with the Translation department. It will also give tips and best practices for working effectively with an interpreter.

**Internet Essentials for Families**

*Kim Sasser Hayden Senior Manager External Affairs & Terry Vo, External Affairs, Comcast, @kimsasserhayden @lvo320 @ComcastSouth*

Ezell 234

Terry and Kim from Comcast's External Affairs department will share about the Internet Essentials Program. They will provide a background, step-by-step process, and end the workshop with demonstrations as well as on-site registrations for those who are interested. Having internet access can increase families' abilities to build relationships, have strong communication, and partner in academics.

**The Journey of Student-Led Conferences**

*Carly Price, MAT, DAST, Seth Swihart, M.Ed., NBCT, JT Moore Middle Prep, an IB World School @JTM_IB*

Swang 230

Student-led conferences were a tremendous success at our school this year. See how our journey could help your school engage more families, empower students, and bring faculties together. Hear from an administrator, an instructional coach, teachers, parents, and students.

**Making It Meaningful: Sharing Student Data with Families**

*Mary Laurens M. Seely, Ed.D. Gina Smallwood, Ed.D. Denise Brown, Katy Enterline Miller, Sudhir Sinha, Ed.D, Jan Lineberger, MNPS Research, Assessment and Evaluation @MaryLaurens @drgsmallwood @kenterline*

Swang 234

MNPS is a system rich with student data. When it comes to sharing those data, educators are charged with helping families navigate multiple reports that may be both confusing and overwhelming. When presented without the proper context, educators may miss opportunities to collaborate with families to help their children achieve academic success. Participants in this session will explore the different types of data available to share with families at each tier level (elementary, middle, and high) as well as rationales and timelines for doing so. A special focus will be placed on assessment data, including the upcoming TN Ready assessments.

**The Power of Perception**

*Jill Peeples, Family Relations Coordinator, M.Ed. & Allison D'Aurora, Community Engagement Coordinator, MNPS Communications @jillpeeples1 @acdaurora @metroschools*

Swang 112

Remember a time you felt valued, welcomed and part of something much bigger than yourself? That's what we want our parents to feel like when they are interacting with Metro Schools. Come to our session to get practical tips on how we can provide these services for those that are our biggest partners in educating our students.
Reimagining Homework: “Work” to “Home” Learning
Kristen W. Neal, Ph.D., Co-Director of Learning and Design, Peabody College at Vanderbilt University & Emily Pendergrass, Ph.D., Director of Reading Education at Vanderbilt University
@KrisWeeksNeal @Dr_Pendergrass @vandyREADs @vupeabody
Ezell 363
Tired of empty reading logs? Do you have fatigue from checking homework and even wondering why you assign it? This seminar focuses on strategies to make homework a meaningful and productive experience in the lives of families. Reimagining homework holds possibilities to connect families to the school experience.

Strategies for Partnering with Families in Early Childhood
Presenters: Kathryn Addison & Tiffany Rhodes, Metro Nashville Public Schools Pre-K Family Involvement Specialists
@MNPSPreK
Swang 118
In this session we will discuss ways to create partnerships with families as well as strengthening existing relationships. Join us as we mix-up ingredients to build the best recipes for Family-School Partnerships!

Strengths-Based Family Engagement: Reframing Deficit Perspectives to Embrace ALL Families and Communities
Dr. Mona C. Ivey-Soto, Professor, Belmont University School of Education, @PhDSoto
Swang 102
This interactive session will empower participants to understand how to move away from ideologies and practices that may view families through a deficit lens and move toward validation and advocacy for all families. Session participants will understand how our individual and collective biases and socialization processes may prevent strengths focused relationship building with families. Authentic case examples and practical strategies will be shared and modeled through role-plays and narratives.

Supporting Refugee Youth and Families through Trauma Informed Practice
Catholic Charities of Tennessee
@cctenn
Ezell 207
The workshop will provide basic education on refugee resettlement, providing insight into the process that refugee youth go through, to end up in our classrooms. Additionally, there will be some information about creating trauma informed classrooms for refugee youth and families with trauma.

FACE Institute Teacher
FACE (Family and Community Engagement) Teacher Institute is a cohort-based learning opportunity for teachers through Family Engagement University. FACE teachers meet 6 times over the course of the academic year to examine core beliefs, review communication practices, and learn how to partner with families for academic success. Each session is strategically designed around the academic calendar and offers a blend of discussion, planning, and practice for classroom and school-level family engagement. Those interested in the 2017-2018 Elementary and Secondary cohort should email Allison.Buzard@mnps.org.
**Figure 2: The Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family–School Partnerships**

**THE CHALLENGE**
- Lack of opportunities for School/Program Staff to build the capacity for partnerships
- Lack of opportunities for Families to build the capacity for partnerships

**OPPORTUNITY CONDITIONS**
- Process Conditions
  - Linked to learning
  - Relational
  - Development vs. service orientation
  - Collaborative
  - Interactive
- Organizational Conditions
  - Systemic: across the organization
  - Integrated: embedded in all programs
  - Sustained: with resources and infrastructure

**POLICY AND PROGRAM GOALS**
- To build and enhance the capacity of staff/families in the “4 C” areas:
  - **Capabilities** (skills and knowledge)
  - **Connections** (networks)
  - **Cognition** (beliefs, values)
  - **Confidence** (self-efficacy)

**FAMILY AND STAFF CAPACITY OUTCOMES**
- School and Program Staff who can
  - Honor and recognize families’ funds of knowledge
  - Connect family engagement to student learning
  - Create welcoming, inviting cultures
- Families who can negotiate multiple roles
  - Supporters
  - Encouragers
  - Monitors
  - Advocates
  - Decision Makers
  - Collaborators

**Effective Family–School Partnerships**
- Supporting Student Achievement & School Improvement
An Engaging Proposition: Leveraging Tech to Engage Students and Families
Jason Bihler and Giumarra Duhart, Instructional Designers, MNPS Learning Technology and Library Services
@idesignlt @marriedew @mnpslearningtec
Swang 242
Engage in strategies and practices for using technology to create a more personalized and blended learning environment for students and families.

Between Us: The Impact of Power and White Dominant Culture on Interpersonal Dynamics
Brynn Plummer, M.Ed., Managing Director, Alumni Leadership at Teach for America Greater Nashville
@brynmplummer @tfa_nashville
Ezell 107
Beginning and sustaining the work of family engagement will require examining issues of race, class, and power. This intersectional workshop will allow you to examine the impact of white dominant culture and power on interpersonal relationships between staff members and families in order to build more trusting and powerful relationships.

But I’m Not Biased! Understanding Ourselves in Order to Cross Lines of Difference and Build Strong Relationships with Families
Danielle Young, M.S. Mental Health Counseling, Director of Diversity & Inclusion at Teach for America Greater Nashville
@tfa_nashville
Swang 110
In order to build strong relationships with families from diverse backgrounds, teachers must reflect and be aware of their beliefs and biases (especially around race, class, and privilege) and how those play out in their actions. We will discuss the importance of identity development for educators, how doing this work can lead to improved relationships, and participants will engage in an abbreviated identity development PD experience.

College Access for Undocumented Students
Laura Delgado, Program Director, Pionero Scholars Program & Elisa Martinez, Lipscomb University student & Elisa Ibarra, Lipscomb University parent
@deltothegado
Ezell 136
This 2-part workshop will cover: 1). Information about DACA: what it offers students, and pathways for undocumented students to attend college 2.) Information about how the new presidential administration could impact these pathways. This session will feature the voices of a DACAmented student and her mother, discussing how teachers & staff can support undocumented students and families and to host inclusive school events.

Creative Ways to Connect, Dialogue, and Celebrate Parents
Terrica Simms, M.Ed, PE Teacher, Cane Ridge Elementary & Nicole Vaughn, M.Ed, Community Achieves Coordinator Two Rivers Middle Prep
@justliveready @commachieves
Swang 232
This workshop will engage participants in learning techniques on how to welcome parents whether they are picking up their child early, passing the teacher in the hallway, spending time in the classroom, or attending a school workshop/event. The facilitators will teach quick and easy team building exercises that teachers can use to welcome families and make them feel valued in the classroom or at a school event.

Effective School-Family Communication in Early Education
Traci Bryant & Lindy Matthews, MNPS Pre-K Family Involvement Specialists, @MNPSPreK
Swang 118
Communication is key in creating a trusting partnership between families and schools. This workshop will assist teachers in navigating best communication practices in early education environments.
Establishing Meaningful Communication with Families
Joe Fitzgerald III, Family Involvement Specialist Pearl Cohn Cluster & Wayne E. Simpson LBSW, M.S., Family Involvement Specialist Hunter’s Lane Cluster
@LuciousFitz @MNPSFamilies
Ezell 109
This engaging session offers practical suggestions for establishing successful, meaningful, proactive, two-way communication with families and offers work time for planning and practice.

Establishing Open Mindsets and Healthy Boundaries with Family Engagement
Julie Simone M.Ed. Instructor in Education, Lead Faculty Liaison for Teach For America
@JulieSimone3 @LipscombCofEd
Ezell 363
What sometimes gets in the way of engaging our families? How does staying out of blame, judgment, shame, pity, lowered expectations, and deficit thinking increase family engagement and student outcomes? This workshop offers a compassionate and empathetic invitation to reflect on one’s own thinking, identify triggers, set boundaries, and create a vision for family engagement grounded in the most gracious assumptions of our neighbors.

Flavors of Family Engagement
Marcia Blatchford, MNPS Pre-K Teacher & Meredith McKinney, M.S., MNPS PreK Family Involvement Specialist
@MNPSPreK
Ezell 138
Join us as we sample family engagement strategies and approaches in a buffet style atmosphere. Participants will be able to preview a menu of options and then have support thinking through how to best apply interventions and strategies to their classrooms or schools. Come ready to walk away with a full plate of things you can implement!

It Takes A Village: Engaging with Foster Youth in Families
Julieanna Huddle, Executive Director & Adam Buzard, Volunteer Training & Advocate Manager, Casa Nashville
@AdamBuzard @CasaNashville
Room: Swang 234
This workshop focuses on using a trauma-informed approach to engaging foster care families and youth.

The Journey of Student-Led Conferences
Carly Price, MAT, DAST, Seth Swihart, M.Ed., NBCT, JT Moore Middle Prep, an IB World School
@JTM_IB
Swang 230
Student-led conferences were a tremendous success at our school this year. See how our journey could help your school engage more families, empower students, and bring faculties together. Hear from an administrator, an instructional coach, teachers, parents, and students.

A Parent Ambassador Perspective: Reaching out and Engaging Families by Better Understanding their Cultures
Panelists: Saber Abdelhalim, Irini Bakhoum, Mr. Nawzad Hawrami, Imran Noor, José Sauceda, Dr. Nahla Shalan, Patricia Vivanco
Facilitators: Rubén E. De Peña, MLS, EL Family & Community Liaison & Renee Thessing, M.Ed., EL Family & Community Specialist, MNPS Office of English Learners
@rubendepena @MNPS_EL
Ezell 207
The Parent Ambassadors program matches experienced MNPS parents with newcomer families. The Ambassadors guide new families in their native language to navigate MNPS and direct them to district and community resources. This session will have a panel of Parent Ambassadors, representing core languages in MNPS. They will provide their own perspectives as both MNPS parents and MNPS Parent Ambassadors in best practices in reaching out the ever-growing immigrant and refugee populations in MNPS.
Workshop Session 3: 1:50-3:00

Parent Teacher Home Visits: Building Relationships Outside of the Schoolhouse
Kyle Iovannoni, 2nd Grade Teacher, Charlotte Park Elementary School, Kimberly Carter Jordan Ed.S., PreK/Exceptional Education Teacher, Charlotte Park Elementary School, Gracie Kaul, MSW, Family Involvement Specialist Stratford Cluster, & Anna King, MSW, Family Involvement Specialist Hillwood Cluster
@ConnieKaul @Hillwood_FIS @MNPSFamilies
Ezell 301
Come learn about this non-traditional approach to building relationships with families. Hear from teachers and families about how home visits have built stronger relationships that lead to greater communication and student success.

Principal Think Tank
Dr. Maritza Gonzalez, Executive Officer for Equity and Diversity and Molly Sehring, Director of Family and Community Partnerships
@DraMaritzaG @MNPSFamilies
Ezell 205
Principals and assistant principals, join your colleagues for a relevant, facilitated discussion focused on meaningful school-family communication and its impact on family engagement. This school leader role-alike session will give administrators the opportunity to network, share best practices, and build a framework for successful family engagement with among colleagues.

Strengths-Based Family Engagement: Reframing Deficit Perspectives to Embrace ALL Families and Communities
Dr. Mona C. Ivey-Soto, Professor, Belmont University School of Education, @PhDSoto
Swang 102
This interactive session will empower participants to understand how to move away from ideologies and practices that may view families through a deficit lens and move toward validation and advocacy for all families. Session participants will understand how our individual and collective biases and socialization processes may prevent strengths focused relationship building with families. Authentic case examples and practical strategies will be shared and modeled through role-plays and narratives.

Welcoming Families with Varied Religious Customs
Jeger Ali, Family Involvement Specialist Overton Cluster & Amany Shehata, Family Involvement Specialist Glencliff Cluster, MNPS Department of Family and Community Partnerships
@MNPSFamilies
Ezell 244
In this workshop, participants will explore the top five religious customs and practices that are upheld by many MNPS students and families. Participants will learn how to engage respectfully with practices that can affect family engagement and student learning.

FACE Institute Leader
FACE (Family and Community Engagement) Institute Leader is an advanced-level, cohort-based learning opportunity for family engagement professionals (administration, counselors, SIT Leads, Family Engagement Staff...) through Family Engagement University. FACE Leaders meet monthly to dive deep into core belief exploration, theory, and best practices. FACE Leaders graduate with increased capacity to form effective partnerships between school and family, connections with a supportive, like-minded network, understanding of core beliefs, and confidence to engage our MNPS families and communities effectively, and to engage their colleagues to do this work, as well. Email Allison.Buzzard@mnps.org for an application for the Spring Cohort (due 1/9/17).
Department of

Family & Community Partnerships

What We Do

Mission Statement
Our mission is to improve student success by supporting and empowering all families, schools, and communities through meaningful engagement and collaboration.

Who We Are
Families Start @ with Staff Serving 167 Schools & 86,700+ Students

How We Work

Family Partnerships

Community Partnerships

Professional Development

Parent Voice & Leadership

Contact Us

www.MNPSFAMILIES.com
615.259.8569 @mnpsfamilies

#FEUSum17
We wanted to carve out time and space for reflection. Please use the space below and your calendar to reflect and plan.

1. What are some of your key take-aways from today?

2. Did you experience or adopt any new perspectives today? If so, what were they?

3. What are one or two practical things that you can add, subtract, or edit from your practice to engage families based on what you learned today?

4. What are your New Year Resolutions for family engagement?

5. Take a look at your calendar and consider planning out some family engagement practices (positive phone calls, home visit, conversations with coworkers/leadership…).
KAREN USED TO WAIT IN LINES TO MANAGE HER FAMILY’S BENEFITS AND BILLS.

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