

Gleason School
Parent and Family Engagement Plan
2023-2024

The Gleason School Parent and Family Engagement Policy has been jointly developed and agreed upon with families of participating Title 1 children and distributed to all parents/guardians annually. This policy is also available to the community on our school website. Names of individuals involved in the development of this policy are listed in the appropriate section of the parent and family engagement notebook. The policy will be reviewed every school year and revised, as needed, in order to ensure that families not only feel welcome, but are also actively partnering with staff in structuring a successful atmosphere for student learning and activities. It is the goal of this policy that families and staff have the opportunity to work together in meaningful communication about student success in both learning and extracurricular activities. This on-going communication will help maintain sharing power between school and home, creating a beneficial balance in optimizing the learning potential of all students. Any dissatisfaction with the Parent and Family Engagement Plan will be documented in the designated section of this policy. May it also be noted that in carrying out parent and family engagement requirements, Gleason School, to the extent practicable, will provide full opportunities for the participation of families with limited English proficiency or with disabilities, including providing information and school profiles in a language and form such families understand (i.e. translations). Gleason School strives to build a capacity for family engagement from each student home by providing reasonable support for activities as requested.

An annual “Open House” for students PreK-12 begins our school year with a “meet and greet” opportunity for families and teachers. This welcoming time is designed to familiarize families with our school environment and establish relationships between families and teachers. This meeting is scheduled with family convenience in mind and all families are invited. At the meeting, families are welcomed as education partners and urged to be involved in open communication with teachers in assisting their student in meeting these expectations. Families are also given a brief overview of the academic expectations facing their child. A description and explanation of curriculum the school uses, forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet is also given during this meeting. Assistance is provided in understanding topics such as the state’s academic content standards, state student academic achievement standards, state and local academic assessments, and how to monitor a child’s progress and work with educators to improve student achievement. Parents are provided information via the online ParentVue program and are encouraged to use this free tool as another source of communication.

The importance of punctual and consistent school attendance is stressed. Parents are assured that the best interest of their student is the goal of Gleason School. In pursuing this goal, parents are asked to contact the school as an advocate for their student or any other student should a problem arise that might threaten the learning opportunities designed to enhance learning

success. Families are involved in an organized and timely way in the on-going attempt to review and improve this policy, as well as all other school wide policies. Continued efforts to strengthen and engage parents are further evidenced in parent conferences, scheduled meetings, and both written and oral reports. Other activities such as Family Reading Night, Fall Fest, Pancakes with Parents, Thanksgiving Meal Invitations, the Veteran's Day Program, plus written suggestions from teachers for developing learning skills at home, formal and informal reports, and State reports are all designed to keep the bridge strong between school and home. Community businesses serve with us as "Partners in Education" to pledge their support to help provide the best education possible for our students. Extracurricular activities such as Student Council, FFA, FCA, STEM Club, Fine Arts Club, Elementary Beta, Jr. High Beta, High School Beta, G-Club, Spanish Club, Prevention Coalition, and various sports offer the opportunity to engage in learning both inside and outside the classroom. Such activities give students the experience of participating in community service and civic opportunities.

In closing, our Gleason School Parent and Family Engagement Plan firmly embraces the Tennessee Parent and Family Engagement Standards listed below. It is our full intent to implement each of these standards within the context of our school environment.

Tennessee Parent and Family Engagement Standards

Standard 1: Welcoming all families into the school community- Families are active participants in the life of the school, and feel welcomed, valued, and connected to each other, to school staff, and to what students are learning and doing in class and school.

Standard 2: Communicating effectively- Families and school staff engage in regular, meaningful communication about student learning.

Standard 3: Supporting student success- Families and school staff continuously work together to support students' learning and healthy development both at home and at school, and have regular opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and skills to do so effectively.

Standard 4: Speaking up for every child- Families are informed and enabled to be advocates for their own and other children, to ensure that students are treated fairly and have access to learning opportunities that will support their success.

Standard 5: Sharing power- Families and school staff are equal partners with equal representation in decisions that affect students and families and together inform, influence, and create policies, practices, and programs.

Standard 6: Collaborating with community- Families and school staff work together with community members to connect students, families, and staff to expanded learning opportunities, community services, and civic participation.