

2021-2022 Parent & Family Engagement Information Packet
“Family Matters”

Dunbar Magnet Middle School
1100 Wright Avenue
Little Rock, AR 72206
Telephone: 501-447-2600
Fax: 501-447-2601



Eunice Thrasher, Principal 501-447-2602 eunice.thrasher@lrsd.org

Charlotte Watson-Joiner and Nell Weaver, Parent Facilitators 501-447-2600
Charlotte.joiner@lrsd.org and Nellieann.weaver@lrsd.org

Ms. Adams, PTSA Facilitator 501-447-2600

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School Mission: Dunbar faculty and staff are committed to doing whatever it takes to prepare students to become critical thinkers, creative learners, and responsible citizens in a safe, secure, and globally diverse environment.

Dunbar is a School-Wide Title 1 free and reduced lunch, 6th-8th grade Gifted and Talented International Studies Magnet School.

2021-2022 Parent & Family Engagement Committee

Principal Eunice Thrasher
Charlotte Watson-Joiner, Teacher/Facilitator
Nell Weaver, Literacy and Parent Facilitator
Katherine Knight, Grandparent
Dr. William Delsa, Staff
Karen Palmer, Staff
Regina Ezell, Staff (AP)
TBS, Staff, Home Access and Technology specialist (Teacher)
Jan Mixon, Staff
Wendy Ward, Staff, Media Specialist
Nicole Fairmon, Parent, Parenting Partners Trainer, and Parent Workshop Leader

Dunbar communicates with parents in the following ways to increase parental involvement and to support classroom instruction by:

- Distributing a school newsletter developed by school staff member, principal, and the parent teacher association, (PTSA) which will include school news and activities, district events, and parenting tips. Nell Weaver, 447-2642
- Distributing parent involvement surveys at the beginning of the year to help develop goals and objectives for the school year. Facilitators will distribute during registration. Call 447-2600
- Volunteer opportunities and training will be offered to all parents
- Utilizing the school website and Home Access Center (HAC) and Schoology to communicate pertinent school information.
- HAC provides parents access to their child's grades and parents may use HAC to communicate with child's teacher. Contact, Wendy Ward, 447-2606
- Utilizing student interactive notebooks, Facebook, text messages, e-mails, and telephone calls to communicate individual student's academic and behavioral progress. See your child's Classroom Teacher.
- Providing two (one First semester and one Second semester), parent teacher conferences. Conferences are for parents to discuss their students' academic and behavioral progress. Principal Mrs. E. Thrasher 447-2600 & all classroom teachers.

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Dunbar will plan the following activities to improve parent and family engagement activities and build parent capacity: All Activities are coordinated by parent Facilitator, Department heads and Committee Chairperson. All activities sponsored by Title 1, Elementary and Secondary Education Act

- 6th grade orientation,
- Annual Title 1 Meeting
- Open House
- Gifted and Talented Night
- Math Night
- Parent Teacher Conferences
- Winter Family Night
- Literacy Night
- 8 Parenting Partners Workshops
- Test Prep Night
- Special Education/Gifted and Talented Family Night
- International Studies Creative Arts Family Festival
- Clubs/Technology Night
- Game Fest/Garden Fest
- Lunch Bunch
- PTSA/Family Committee Meetings
- Parent Meetings
- Field Trips

Dunbar provides volunteer opportunities and allows parents to select activities and/or events of interest.

Procedures for various parent engagement opportunities will be coordinated by parent volunteers/PTSA committee members, contact VIPs Chairperson, Alice Kunces, (447-2656)

All Family activities are to be scheduled by Dunbar Parent Facilitators

• Meetings will be held for parents of 6th graders to help them understand the move to middle school. Contact, JoEvelyn Elston, 447-2604.

▪ Family and Parent Engagement Workshops are provided to parents on how to incorporate appropriate learning activities in the home environment.

Give away Parenting Information to educate parents on bullying, special activities, college opportunities, next grade requirements, nutritional facts, attendance, High school readiness, and other helpful information. The parenting booth is setup in the Alumni Room and Security Front Door area. Contact, Nell Weaver for information, 447-2642

▪ The parent facilitators or trained designee will provide no fewer than two hours of professional development during the year for teachers designed to enhance the understanding of effective parental involvement strategies

Dunbar and the PTSA have developed a school-parent-compact:

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- This compact will outline how parents, school staff, and students share the responsibility for improving student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state’s high academic standards. All Stakeholders will sign the compact.

Dunbar provides opportunities for parents to be involved in the development, implementation and evaluation of the school-wide School Improvement Plan to engage them in the decision-making process in regard to student achievement in the following ways: (Nell Weaver 447-2642)

- Involve parents on school improvement planning committees. Parents and staff will be provided with a brief training concerning this process by the school principal.
- Take advantage of the community resources for school improvement purposes.
- The Parent Teacher Association will foster parental and community involvement within the school.

Dunbar provides the following resources for parents by:

- Providing a parent center with easy accessibility to parents
- Encouraging parents to utilize the media center as a resource to help access Home Access Center to check student progress
- Distributing informational packets at check in
- Dunbar’s school’s parent and family engagement plan.
- Suggestions of ways parents can become involved in their child’s education, and information by surveying
- Parents and teachers two way communicate (notes, phone calls, e-mail)
- Providing the informational packet online and at check in as requested
- Listening to parental concerns and develop solutions.

Dunbar engages parents in the evaluation of our parent and family engagements efforts in the following ways:

- Engage parents in the annually evaluation of the parental efforts through an annual evaluation using a needs assessment completed by teachers, parents, and school staff. The parental engagement committee will determine the effectiveness of the parental and family engagement plan and make changes as warranted.
- Utilize the parent interest surveys to select, plan, and implement parental and family engagement activities that will be offered throughout the year.
- A parent survey will be distributed at the end of each school year to collect information on parental program effectiveness.
- Utilize the information collected to determine which activities to continue or discontinue.

Dunbar engages parents in the evaluation of our parental involvement efforts in the following ways:

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- Dunbar will conduct an Annual Title I Meeting (5-6pm) for parents and families to participate in the school-wide Title 1 Part A Program. The school will hold their annual Title 1 meeting (before open house) to ensure that parents discuss the parental and family engagement plan, provide a description and explanation of Dunbar’s school curriculum, information on forms of academic assessments used to measure student progress and information on proficiency level students are expected to meet.
- Contact Principal Eunice Thrasher regarding the Title I meeting
- The National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS) invites schools to use research-based approaches to organize and sustain excellent programs of family and community involvement that will increase student success in school. Dunbar MS collaborates and supports the Central-East Cluster Team. Partnership Programs focus on the six “keys to improvement” identified by educational researchers as the critical components of home/school/community connections.



Parenting

Assist families with parenting skills and setting home conditions to support children as students. Also, assist schools to better understand families.



Communicating

Conduct effective communications from school-to-home and from home-to-school about school programs and student progress.



Volunteering

Organize volunteers and audiences to support the school and students. Provide volunteer opportunities in various locations and at various times.



Learning at Home

Involve families with their children on homework and other curriculum-related activities and decisions.



Decision Making

Include families as participants in school decisions, and develop parent leaders and representatives.



Collaborating with the Community

Coordinate resources and services from the community for families, students, and the school, and provide services to the community.

Epstein, et. al. 2019. School, Family, and Community Partnerships: Your Handbook for Action, Third Edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press, Inc.

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LITTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dunbar Magnet Middle School HOME/SCHOOL LEARNING COMPACT

School-Parent Compact

Parents are a part of revising and/or re-developing the school compact through monthly PTSA meetings, reading and explaining school policies together and list who has the responsibilities of the school and home, revising the compact as needed to assure the engagement of Dunbar families.

Dunbar Magnet Middle School, (DMMS) and the parents of the students participating in activities, services, and programs funded by Title 1, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Act (ESEA)

- This compact will outline how parents, school staff, and students share the responsibility for improving student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high academic standards. All Stakeholders will sign the compact.

HOME/SCHOOL LEARNING COMPACT

Student Name: _____ Grade _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN AGREEMENT

(Any parent who is interested in helping with this student may sign in lieu of the parent.) I want my child to achieve. Therefore, I will encourage him/her by doing the following:

Ensure that my child is on time each day and attends school regularly

Support the school discipline policy

Establish a time for homework and review it regularly

Partner with my child's teachers and Administrators to help guide positive behavior choices

Provide a quiet well lighted place for study including days of Alternative Methods of Instructions (AMI)

Encourage my child's efforts and be available for questions

Stay aware of what my child is learning through emails, text messages, popup visits, lunch with my child...

Discuss Student Success Plan for High School

Visit the parent center once every month to get new information on parenting partners

Read with my child and let my child see me read

Signature: _____

STUDENT AGREEMENT

It is important that I work to the best of my ability. Therefore, I shall strive to do the following:

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Attend School regularly

Be positive and productive

Come to school each day with pens, pencil, paper, and other necessary tools for learning

Complete and return homework assignments on time

Observe regular study hours for all core classes, Math, Language Arts, Social Studies, and Science

Use school days to learn new information

Conform to rules of student conduct

Develop healthy eating habits and take responsibility for keeping building clean and orderly

Signature: _____

TEACHER AGREEMENT

It is important that student achieve. Therefore, I shall strive to do the following:

Provide appropriate and meaningful homework assignments for students

Provide necessary assistance to parents so that they can help assist with the assignments

Encourage students and parents by providing information about student progress;

Use special activities in the classroom to make learning enjoyable

Model positive behavior in speech, indeed, and in all daily school activities

Become a mentor and or role model

Signature: _____

PRINCIPAL AGREEMENT

I support this form of parent involvement. Therefore, I shall strive to do the following:

Provide an environment that allows for positive communication between the teachers, parents and student

Ensure teachers homework assignments that will reinforce classroom instruction regularly.

Ensure high-quality curriculum and instruction that meets the State's student academic achievement standards

Engage parents in parent-teacher conferences in which this compact will be discussed

Ensure that parents receive frequent reports on their child's progress

Ensure parental access to staff to support partnerships

Provides parents opportunities to volunteer and observe classroom activities

Signature: _____

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Dunbar Magnet school will send you an activation code for Home Access Center, (HAC) you can use to create your screen name and password to sign into HAC.

There are separate accounts for students and parents. If the activation code states “Family of Student Name” then the activation code is the parent account. If the activation code states “Student Name” this is the code for the student account.

Prepare your child for new academic challenges by investing family time into the school community

Read with your child 20 minutes a day to build a love for reading

Sign up for the Parenting Partners workshop

Volunteer in your child’s classroom

Middle School Students need a home environment that values education and support higher learning academics achievements, see school counselors, JoEvelyn Elston for additional information

Join Dunbar PTSA contact Membership Coordinator Ms. Adams 447-2600.

**** Here are 6 ways to build a better reader during the middle school year****

1. Create reading habits and read every day.
2. Talk about pictures and ask questions while reading.
3. Snuggle up close with a book before bed.
4. Share different kinds of books (stories, nonfiction, poetry)
5. Read favorite books again and again.
6. Read with expression...it’s more fun!

GOOD READERS are made on the laps of parents. Tips

Practicing math facts will help keep your students to maintain important math skills that can be critical during testing months, March and April.

Expect a lot from your child. He or she need to know that you believe he or she can succeed and excel.

Tell them every day, “be the best student you can!” And they will!

Stay positive but be firm!

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Middle School is about consistency between home and school. Be a team with your child’s school.

Your child will follow your lead, even if you didn’t have the best school experience.

Create a good study space

Find a good spot in your home that helps your child stay focus. It should be quiet and free from distraction.

Join Dunbar Middle School PTSA! 2021-2022 PTSA OFFICERS

President----- TBA
Vice President -----TBS
Secretary-----TBA
Treasurer-----TBA
Jan Mixon -----Teacher Rep.
TBA-----VIPs Chairperson
TBA-----Membership

PTSA dues is \$ 5.00

Dunbar’s PTSA meetings are held on the Third Thursday of each month

PARENT INTEREST SURVEY

- ☐ What are your hopes and dreams for your child?
- ☐ How can you partner with your child’s teacher to ensure that the academic?

hopes and dreams that you have for your child will come true?

- ☐ What day (s) can you volunteer on a monthly basis at your child’s school?
- ☐ What are you interested in doing as a volunteer at your child’s school this school year?
- ☐ How often will you communicate with the school staff this year about your child’s progress both academically and socially?

Return this survey to Ms. Nell Weaver, Parent Facilitator or drop it off in the main office.

THANK YOU!

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2021-2022 Staff

EUNICE THRASHER, Principal, 447-2602,
Ms. Adams, Principal’s Secretary, 447-2603
Pamela Bostic, Attendance Secretary, 447-2636

Teachers (all teachers can be emailed; first name.lastname@lrzd.org)

Ammel, Linda	McCree, Darius
Butler, Julie	Milton, Kenneth
Cole, Bettye	Mixon, Dr. Jan
Davis, Judith	Moore, April
Delsa, Dr. William	Murry, Nicolas
Finley, Calvin	Palmer, Diana
Gonzalez, Anaid	Scott, Oliver
Halford, Greg	Shavers, Gregory
Harris, Michael	Stephens, Paulette
Hellekson, Amber	Thomas, Jennifer, Gifted and Talented
Jackson, Shakelia, Math Facilitator	Facilitator, 447-2685
Kines, Scott	Ward, Wendy, Media Specialist, 447-2606
Kirby, Audrey	Weaver, Nell, Literacy Facilitator, 447-
Kunce, Alice	2642
McGee, Carlton, Dean of Students	

School Counselors/Nurse

JoEvelyn Elston, Counselor, 447-2604
TBA, Nurse, 447-2605

Administrators and Support Staff

Dunbar School Registrar, 447-2615
Dunbar School Bookkeeper, 447-2666
Assistant Principal, Kelvin Bostic, 447-2646
Assistant Principal, Regine Ezell, 447-2628
Parent Center/Alumni Room 447-2637
Security 447-2611
Custodial Staff, 447-2608
Courtesy Phone 447-2676
Cafeteria Manager/ Food Nutritionist, Wanda Coats, 447-2607