

## **Parent and Family Engagement Policy 2023-2024**

The teachers and staff at DSES recognize that strong parental involvement is critical to student success. The three areas of parent involvement at DSES are:

1. Communication
2. Collaboration
3. Parent Education

### **Communication:**

Communication from DSES will happen in a number of different ways for school and families. First, each student is provided a student planner. The planner is used to transport information to and from school each day. Teachers and parents utilize this tool to write daily notes as well as provide a means to send other pertinent information. Also, parents may reach a child's teacher through written notes, phone calls, email, or through digital means such as the Talking Points app. Parents are asked to limit phone calls to teacher planning or after school has disbanded for the day. Teachers are also available during two scheduled times for parent/teacher conferences or on an as-needed basis which may be initiated by either party. All parents and/or visitors must report to the office to sign in when visiting the school.

Teachers will also send information home with students by newsletters and emails on a regular basis. DSES also maintains a school website which houses individual teacher websites and a school Facebook page to keep parents apprised of activities at the school. The school continues to utilize Blackboard Connect to send out calls, emails, and texts to parents. This can be done for the entire school or to individual grade levels or groups. Talking Points continues to be a valuable tool used by teachers and has been endorsed by parents as a strong means of direct and timely communication. Due to current circumstances, teachers are also utilizing Google Classroom as a means of communication. Parent Portal is available for parents to see the daily/weekly grade(s) of students in PowerSchool. If parents choose to have access, they must meet with the school data manager to obtain a password; ID will be required.

### **Collaboration:**

DSES schedules regular student/parent/teacher conferences in the Fall and Spring. Parents and/or teachers may also schedule conferences at other times as needed. Parents are invited to participate in the school PTO. The PTO supports academic resources and community building activities throughout the year in a variety of ways. Parents are also invited to be a part of our School Improvement Team. The dates/times/locations for those meetings are listed on our school website. The DSES School Improvement Plan includes parent participation in the development and implementation of the School Improvement Plan and Title I plan.

There are celebrations each month to share with parents and staff about how children are demonstrating good character as taught by our Character Education programs. This time is used to share what the students are doing and learning in the school and to further their education beyond traditional academics. Parents are also invited to share and ask questions of the school staff.

**Parent Education:**

DSES is committed to providing parents with information and skills to assist them in working with their students at home. Individualized strategies will be provided as well as parent nights that will inform parents in the areas of curriculum, reading, and math strategies. Parent tools such as flashcards, reading materials, and math materials are also available for parent use. Just as we work for student growth, it is also our intent to help parents become better equipped to help with their child(ren)'s academic development.