Welcome to the inaugural CMSD Family and Community Engagement Newsletter! We are excited to bring you news, reminders, best practices, and resources on a monthly basis. With this issue coming out in April, we are especially focused on ending the school year on a high note and looking forward to next year. So, as we come back from break, energized and ready to take on the rest of the quarter, let’s keep the following in mind:

- Testing season is upon us! Remember to talk with your families about how they can help their scholars be ready to test. Do your families know if their scholar is on-track?
- April 13- Parent Leadership Institute at EPC from 9:00 am -1:00 pm. Make sure to send at least one parent leader to represent your school. We will be discussing long-term planning amongst other topics.
- April 23- Volunteer Recognition at John Adams HS 6:30 pm before the Board Meeting. Extend a personal invitation to your volunteers to thank them for all of their hard work.
- April 24- Early dismissal and interim Parent Teacher Conferences. How are you inviting your families? Which scholars have not yet had a conference; reach out to their families individually.
- April 26- No school for Pre-K and Kindergarten. How are you communicating with pre-K families about the transition into kindergarten?
- April 30- IEPs expiring between 5/1 and 9/30 are due. How can we better engage our families in the IEP process? Are they getting a draft before the meeting? Are we meeting with them in person or by phone?

Best Practice Tips for Family Engagement:

Communication

- Create an opportunity for two way communication. (Class DOJO, Remind, Blackboard, Newsletters etc.)
- Respect family’s values, strength and culture. (Create a questionnaire for families in order to best understand Culture and Values.)
- Respond positively and professionally. (S.T.A.R.T. with Heart)
Title 1 Compliance

Quarter 4 is coming to an end on May 23, and traditionally all documentation for FACE activities is due one week after the quarter ends so that FACE ratings can be calculated. Below you will find the FACE grading rubric for Quarter 4, please review with your Family Engagement Committees (FECs.) Submit the following items by **Friday, May 31, 2019** (for all events taking place from March 8, 2019 to May 23, 2019):

- Action plans with all signatures
- Sign-in sheets
- Agendas
- Flyers
- Newsletters
- Calendars

FACE Ratings For Quarter 4

**Budget usage:**
- Accomplished = 90-100% of Title I funds spent
- Skilled = 80-89% of Title I funds spent
- Developing = 70-79% of Title I funds spent
- Needs Improvement = <70% of Title I funds spent

**Family Engagement:**
- Monthly newsletter or communication strategy
- Family Engagement Committee
- Parent on AAP team
- Monthly SPO/PAC or Chat N’ Chew
- 2 activities per quarter (1 Title I and 1 community building)
- Updated School Compact

Accomplished = All 6
Skilled = 5
Developing = 4
Needs Improvement = 3 or less

Research Brief

When schools provide the opportunity to build authentic relationships between educators and families, everyone can win. With authentic relationships families are able to comfortably share their hopes and goals for their child’s education. This will then provide the opportunity for educators to show families how they can best support student learning at home. Students do better when families and educators work together as equal partners. ([https://flamboyanfoundation.org/our-work/family-engagement/](https://flamboyanfoundation.org/our-work/family-engagement/)).

Vendor Introduction

**Woodburn Press Booklets and Books** –
Our booklets provide concise, practical content on topics important to students and parents at all levels – Pre-K through college. Our books are easy-to-read and the information is presented in a way that is easy to understand. We review and update our booklets annually to ensure that the information is always both accurate and relevant.

At Woodburn Press, we develop resources for Title I programs that provide parents with accurate information, practical tips, and insightful advice on how to help their student(s) succeed. Also the website provides free printables, such as the following: [https://www.woodburnpress.com/free-printables.html](https://www.woodburnpress.com/free-printables.html)
Two-Faced - FACE activities worth duplicating.
Remember, it’s all right to be a copycat, you just need the right cat to copy!

PreK – 8 Activity Highlight
“Author’s Tea” – Scholars used a class read to create their own literary presentation based on facts from the book. Family members were invited to participate in their presentations and ask questions to support comprehension. Each scholar was applauded upon completion. Writings were collected and displayed in the building for all to observe. Thank you Warner Girls Leadership Academy!

High School Activity Highlight
“Family Financial Literacy” Series – Families were invited to come out with their scholars to a 4 session series to learn how checking accounts work, how to use credit cards responsibly, how to create personal spending plans, and general information on installment loans and student loans. The series was sponsored by Third Federal Savings and Loan community outreach department. Thank you Cleveland Early College!

Regarding managing volunteers at every school: We have created a tool to look-up the volunteer roster for each school. Please go to: https://app.smartsheet.com/b/publish?EQBCT=e9e3663bddfb4cdd82c6cd60b9bd965a

- This year the Board of Education sponsored Volunteer Appreciation 2019 will be celebrated at John Adams High School. Reception starts at 5 pm with Registration. Program begins at 5:30 pm. At the end of the Reception volunteers are asked to go into the Board Meeting location to publicly recognize volunteer contributions to the school district. Volunteers are then invited to stay or if not interested, they can leave before continuing with the Board agenda.
- Next school year all schools will be equipped with a new Visitor Management System called Raptor. Currently it is functioning in 50 schools. This system also has a Volunteer Management component that will be used to manage volunteer registrations. This will provide all schools the ability to manage closely their volunteer information. Stay tune! We will be selecting a school to run a pilot test this year before the end of the school year. If your school currently is using the Raptor System and would like to test run the Volunteer Management System, please call Judith Lozada @ 216.838.0337 or email: Judith.lozada@clevelandmetroschools.org

We are in the home stretch; we have come so far this year and the end is in sight. Let’s make sure we cross the finish line hand-in-hand with our families!