Having given thanks at the end of November, we walk through December as strong and confident educators, driven to see our scholars finish this year well and enter the second semester rested and set up for success. We are knee-deep in testing, which can leave us overwhelmed. Engaging our families should be nothing more added to your plate, it should easily tie in with what you are already doing. As we lead up to Winter Break, ready to wrap up and regroup for the New Year, 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?
- December 20, 2019 – End of first semester. How can you partner with families to help learning continue over break?
- December 21, 2019 – Winter Solstice. This is the shortest day of the year; starting now we have more and more daylight hours to invest in our scholars. How will you use it?
- January 1, 2020 – Happy New Year! Make stronger family engagement one of your resolutions for this year!
- January 7, 2020 (January 13, 2020 for Year-Round Schools) – Classes resume. Welcome your families to the New Year by laying out a map for them to navigate second semester supporting their scholars as full partners with you.

You have run a good race; we are at the half-way point. Celebrate the wins and strategize ways to lift up the struggles. Parents and families are partners in this work, make sure that you are in step with one another. Rest up, there is still a ways to go, but you’ve got this!

Best Practice Tips for Family Engagement:

**Opportunities:** Make sure there are several opportunities to engage and communicate with Parents in addition to District Mandated activities such as Parent meetings, Literacy nights, Newsletters, Class Dojo, Remind etc…

**Interactions:** Send personal invitations when inviting Parents to school functions. Have Glow and Grow conversations with Parents. Be honest and respectful.
Title 1 Compliance
As part of the districts’ transformation plan; and in accordance with the federal Title 1 grant Section 1001, 12, the FACE department assists schools with "affording parents with substantial and meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their child or children”.

Family Engagement: QTR 2

1. Monthly Newsletter or Communication Strategy (School Calendar)
2. FEC Committee meeting monthly
3. P/T C conferences Data
4. SPO/PAC established
   Monthly Parent Meeting hosted (SPO, PAC, Chat & Chew etc.) Share AAP with the selected parent group or post it on the school's website
5. 2 activities per quarter (1 Title I (academically aligned) 1 Social/community building)
6. Volunteers registered

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Make sure your family is counted!
Every 10 years, the United States Census Bureau undertakes a mammoth task: counting all the people residing in the United States. This count affects the allocation of funding for our community’s public resources (e.g., roads, hospitals, schools), how we plan for the future, and our voice in government.
An accurate snapshot means that communities across the nation receive the funding, services, and business support they deserve and need. And your responses are confidential.
Learn more about the importance of the 2020Census and how to participate: 2020census.gov.

Research Brief
The research is clear. Findings from the Global Family Research Project report, show that when families and teachers join together to support children’s learning and development, children are more likely to succeed in school, graduate and stay on their path to college or a career.
To review the findings click here: https://www.pta.org/docs/default-source/files/cfe/family-engagement-matters.pdf

Vendor Introduction
The Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio

http://www.esc-cc.org/ParentCommunity.aspx

The Educational Service Center of Northeast Ohio provides districts and families technical assistance in supporting student achievement. Research has shown when families are involved in their child's education, students are more successful.

6393 Oak Tree Boulevard South,
Independence, OH 44131
P: (216) 524-3000
F: (216) 524-3683
info@escneo.org
Two-Faced - FACE activities worth duplicating.
Remember, it’s all right to be a copycat, you just need the right cat to copy!

Tips for Helping Kids With the Holiday Season

1. Tell them what to expect. Let them know how the day/season will unfold. They may feel more relaxed if they know what’s going to happen next.

2. Allow them to talk about their holiday traditions at home and share with their peers. Let each one take turns and tell what they like about what was shared.

3. Develop an activity that you can make into a tradition for your classroom each year.

4. Have students write one to two paragraphs answering the question, “What does “holiday spirit” meant to you?”

5. Have students research holiday traditions from a different cultural standpoint. You can either assign the different cultures/countries of origin of have them randomly draw from a bowl.

The second annual 1,000 Ties event will be returning to East Professional Center on February 15, 2020. Doors will open at 10:30am and event ends at 2:30pm. Getting Our Babies to College 101 & CMSD Family & Community Engagement Department would like to invite young men ages 6-21 and their families to this afternoon of community. We are connecting our youth and the business community one tie at a time. They will learn skills they can use for a lifetime like handshaking, eye contact, and how to put on a tie to name a few. Each young man will leave with ties that have been donated by people from our own community. Young men will enjoy workshops and have the opportunity to be connected with a mentor. Come out and meet East Tech Basketball Coach Brett Moore and CMSD Alumni and Christopher Scott. For our mothers you can participate in the Mom’s Chat with a licensed psychologist and a personal trainer. This event is free and there will be many resources including the Cleveland Food Bank and their truck with free food. Register today on the Getting Our Babies to College 101 website www.gobtc101.com

Come out and find out information about the great 1,000 Ties mentorship program on Cuyahoga Community College campus that is focused on STEM for young men ages 12-16.

We are still looking for male volunteers for the 1,000 Ties event and all volunteers must register online as well.