



Manatee Academy K-8

Parent and Family Engagement Policy/Plan: 2023-2024

Manatee is committed to involving parents and community members in school activities and meetings to promote effective relationships, form a strong school-home partnership, and increase student achievement.

Mission Statement

The Mission of Manatee Academy is to ensure all students graduate from a safe and caring school, equipped with the knowledge, skills, and desire to succeed. This ensures that Manatees are fully equipped for their next mission!

Involvement of Parents and Community

- Manatee Academy will offer a variety of parent and family engagement events to strengthen its school-home partnership and to involve the community in students' education, including curriculum events, recognition events, and information sessions.
- Parents may serve on the School Advisory Council (SAC). If interested, please contact the school at (772) 340-4745.
- Members of SAC engage in a review of the School Improvement Plan and the Parent and Family Engagement Plan, and all parents are provided the opportunity to give feedback through an annual survey.
- Volunteers may help on campus, if they are cleared through St. Lucie Public Schools' (SLPS) Human Resources department, including a background check through St. Lucie County, as well as the State of Florida Department of Law Enforcement. The process of how to become a volunteer can be found on the SLPS website: <https://www.stlucie.k12.fl.us/our-district/volunteers/>.
- Manatee Academy will facilitate a "conference week" in October 2023, with available times for teachers to meet with families to discuss students' progress.
- Parents will receive a Title I Parent Involvement/Satisfaction Survey link in the spring of 2024 to provide feedback on programs and events offered throughout the 2023-2024 school year, in addition to individual evaluation forms supplied at events.

Coordination and Integration

- Exceptional Student Education and IDEA
- Title IX (McKinney Vento Act - Homeless Education)
- Early Childhood/Kindergarten Blast-Off

Annual Title I 'Parent Meeting'

- The annual Title I/Title IX parent meeting will be presented in person. In addition, it will be available on the school's website. An active Forms survey link will also be shared to collect feedback and questions from families several times during the year.

Parents' Right to Know

- Parents/guardians may request information regarding the professional qualifications of teachers and staff who work with their child. Please call the school at (772) 340-4745.

Flexible Parent Meetings and Conferences

- Parent and family engagement events and meetings will be scheduled at varied dates/times throughout the year.
- Presentation materials will be made available for families who are unable to attend scheduled meetings/events via the school website or provided through email or other digital platforms.
- Manatee Academy will facilitate conferences with available times for teachers to meet with families to discuss students' progress.
- Parents may request additional parent-teacher conferences to discuss academic and/or behavior progress and concerns at a time which is mutually convenient for all involved parties. Conferences are one of the most important ways parents/guardians and teachers can work together as a team and discuss strategies that can be implemented at home. An interpreter can be available upon request.

Building Capacity

- A variety of parent and family engagement activities designed to promote effective school/home partnerships and improve understanding of curriculum and assessments will take place during the 2023-2024 school year. Examples of events are included below:
 - Grade Level and Grade Band Events
 - Title I funds have been allotted for teachers to plan, prepare, and facilitate parent and family engagement activities throughout the year. Examples include trivia/game nights, data sessions, and themed curriculum events. These in-person events will be focused on subject area standards/content and will support learning at home.
 - Community Events
 - Title 1 Annual Meeting
 - Grandparents Day
 - Book Fair/Literacy Night
 - January Testing Data Night
 - Math Night
 - Family Art & Science Night
 - Breakfast with Santa
 - Winter and Spring Performing/Visual Arts Events
 - School Curriculum-Based Events
 - Kindergarten Blast-Off
 - 5th grade transition
 - Literacy Week
- Staff development opportunities are provided to improve effective communication with parents and promote positive school/home partnerships.

Communication

- Information related to curriculum, assessment, and academic progress is sent to and shared with the parents of participating children in a timely manner. Flyers will be sent 2 weeks before each event and posted on the school website. A connect Ed call/ Text reminder will be sent 1 week before each event.
 - Weekly communication from teachers
 - Information sessions and workshops
 - Progress reports and report cards
 - Parent-teacher conferences
- Translation services are available upon request.
- Parents will be able to provide feedback after each event.
- Parents will have the opportunity to review and provide feedback on the Parent and Family Engagement Policy/Plan at the end of the academic year.

Accessibility

- Manatee Academy will make certain that information related to curriculum, assessment, and academic progress is sent to and shared with the parents of participating children in a timely manner, in an understandable format, and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand, including English, Spanish, and Creole.
- Informational flyers, permission slips, graded work, etc. will be sent home weekly in students' Wednesday folders.
- Information pertinent to large groups, such as school-wide happenings or grade band activities, will be advertised on the school's social media, website, and/or through a school Messenger phone alert.
- For those unable to attend events, presentation materials will be provided on the school website or through email. Materials from family engagement events will also be available upon request from the Title I liaison, or the facilitating teacher/grade level.

Manatee's Website: Visit Manatee's website to view important information, presentations, and links: [MANATEE ACADEMY K8 – Together is Better! \(stlucie.k12.fl.us\)](https://www.manateeacademyk8.com)

Follow Manatee Academy on Facebook: Manatee Academy regularly posts daily updates, classroom activities, and important information on our official Facebook page. Visit Manatee Academy K-8 on Facebook and click the "like" tab to follow our updates. You can also find our page by searching "ManateeAcademyK8" while on Facebook.