

Family Pathways

Family-School Partnerships



**Adapted from The
Federal Ways Public
Schools Family and
Community Partnership
Office,
Parent Leadership
Institute
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Family Engagement

School District of Greenfield



Family/School/Community Partnerships

The School District of Greenfield designed Family Pathways to assist in the development of meaningful and effective partnerships between families and schools. This document can be used to enhance conversations and enrich partnerships to support the academic success of students. This resource introduces families to involvement opportunities and activities to support the needs and interests of students and families.

Leadership Roles, Involvement Activities, and Other Resources

Families are encouraged to create their own involvement plan as well as consider the activities listed below:

- Family Conferences
- School and District Sponsored Family Learning Events
 - School Board Meetings
- Family/School Organizations
- District Level Committees

The Greenfield Community is a great resource that offers many educational services designed to support learning:

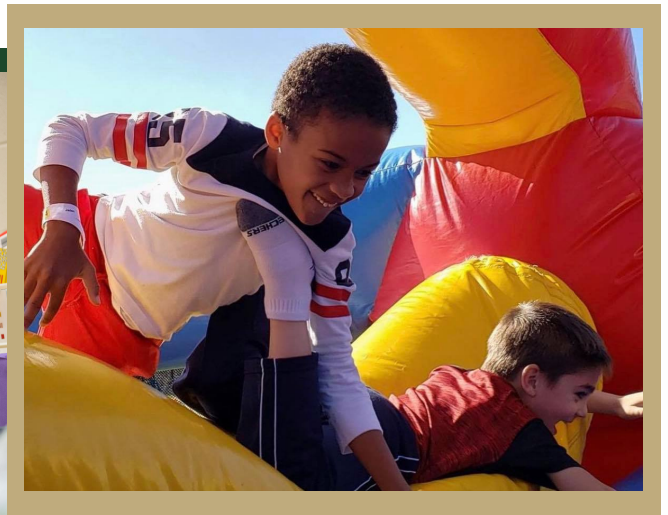
- **Greenfield Department of Parks & Recreation**
 - **Greenfield Fire Department**
 - **Greenfield Health Department**
 - **Greenfield Police Department**
 - **Greenfield Public Library**

Start the Conversation with Questions

Sometimes, just knowing what questions to ask can make all the difference in helping you support your child's success. Here are a few suggestions to get you started.

Questions to ask your child:

- What can you teach me about something you learned today?
- What can you show me of the work you have done?
- Can you show me your Google classroom?
- What can you do if you do not understand or need help with what you are learning in class?
- What else can I do to help you succeed in school?



Questions to ask your child's teacher:

- What is the most effective way for us to communicate for my child's benefit?
- What can I do to help my child succeed in your class?
- What classroom activities seem to keep my child best engaged in learning?
- What should my child be able to understand and talk about as a result of what they have learned?
- What are my child's overall challenges at this time?
- What strengths and interests has my child developed in your class?
- What is the best way I can address any concerns I have about my child's performance?

Ways to Promote Your Child's Success in School – **Elementary**

Family Engagement is critical to student achievement. The most significant type of engagement is what parents do at home. By monitoring, supporting, and advocating, parents can be engaged in ways to ensure that their children have every opportunity for success.

Here are ways to help make sure your child succeeds developmentally and academically this school year:

- ***Start Early***

The sooner your child gets familiar with learning, the faster their potential can be recognized.

- ***Get Them There***

Ensure that your child attends school on a regular and timely basis.

- ***Keep in Touch***

Initiate a positive relationship with your child's teacher and principal. Stay informed, and if you have concerns, speak directly with teachers and school staff.

- ***Model a Love for Learning***

Show that you believe that education is important by reading, looking for opportunities to learn new things, and going to your child's school activities like open house, family conferences, and parent meetings when possible.

- ***Get Involved***

Get involved in your child's school whenever possible. Your presence can impact school culture and benefit all children.

- ***Give the Teacher Information/Share Questions, Comments or Concerns***

Share information with your child's teacher about your child's favorite subjects, special interests, talents, and any information that you would like the teacher to know about your family.

- ***Encourage Participation***

Find out if your child is engaging in class, asking questions or needs extra support.

- ***Give the Teacher Information/Share Questions, Comments or Concerns***

Ask your child about school and encourage them to talk about their school day. Children are encouraged to learn when they believe that their parents are interested in what they know and can do.

- *Promote Great Expectations*

Increase your child's exposure to academically challenging information and supervised learning experiences. Encourage your child to read at home and talk to you about what they are reading.

- *Find the Balance*

Find an appropriate balance between free time and structured activities outside of school.

- *Affirm and Support*

Remind your child that he or she does not have to be extraordinary at everything. Encourage them to explore new learnings and praise them to do their best.

- *Create a Learning Environment*

Identify the type of environment your child performs best in (lighting, location, time of day, etc.) and whenever possible, create a spot in your home that supports their preferred environment during homework time.

- *Help Them Relate*

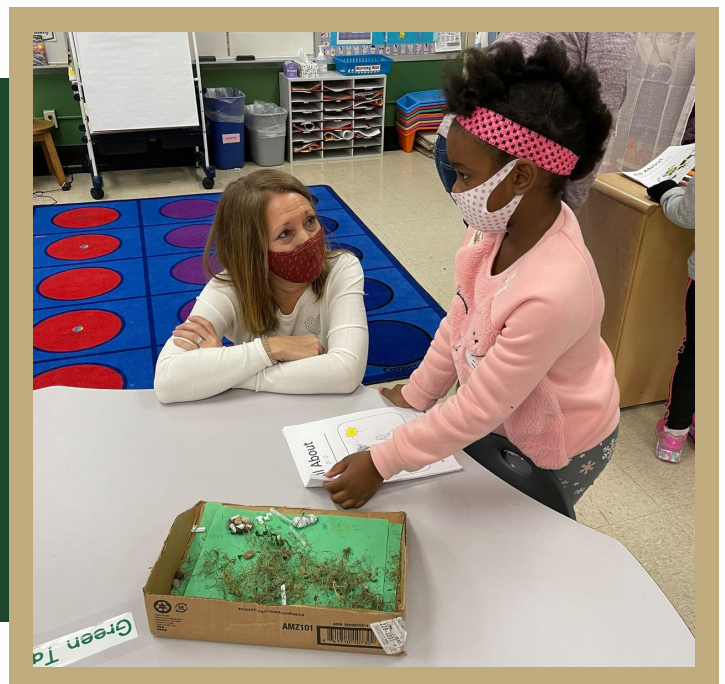
Help your child relate difficult educational concepts to daily activities or memories that they already understand. Children learn better when they can connect what they don't know to something they are familiar with.

- *Follow Up*

Check to see that your child completes their homework every night. Ensure that your child is thoroughly completing and submitting all assignments.

- *Make it Fun*

Help your child associate learning with rewards and fun. Think of fun and simple ways to help them see the value of getting an education and putting forth effort as a learner.



Ways to Promote Your Child's Success in School – **Secondary**

Family engagement often decreases as students move from elementary to middle school to high school. However, research has shown that parents hold a significant influence over their adolescent student's school performance. Family engagement throughout middle and high school is vital as it can contribute to increased academic and social success

At the middle school level, it is especially important for parents to:

- Discuss school assignments and activities
- Encourage active involvement in academics and co-curricular activities
- Keep informed of friends and connections, including social networks
- Keep in contact with school staff
- Attend family conferences and other school events

At the high school level, it is especially important for parents to:

- Make sure that their student reads and does his or her homework
- Stress the value of education and ongoing learning
- Model responsibility, including timeliness and follow-through
- Guide students toward postsecondary opportunities, including education and/or career plans; ensure that they meet with their counselor and encourage them to take advantage of opportunities and available resources

Here are additional tips to help you make sure your middle or high school student succeeds academically and developmentally this school year:

- ***Readiness***

Make sure your child regularly gets enough rest and sleep. Proper rest helps students be their best by increasing concentration, learning skills, and problem-solving abilities.

- ***Get Them There***

Ensure that your child attends school on a regular and timely basis; model time management and share strategies for making sure they are where they need to be, when they need to be there, with the required materials needed for learning.

- ***Keep In Touch***

Check-in regularly with your child's teachers. Initiate a positive relationship with your child's teachers and principal. Stay informed, and if you have concerns, speak directly with teachers and school staff.

- *Daily Communication*

Ask your child about school and encourage them to talk about their school day. Open communication keeps you informed, and shows that you care about your child's experiences. Try inquiring about a high (the best part) and a low (something that didn't go so well) for each day.

- *Assignments*

Check to see that your child completes their homework every night. Ensure that your child is thoroughly completing and submitting all assignments. Check Infinite Campus and emails for messages from teachers.

- *Motivation*

Encourage your child with clear rewards and consequences. Create consequences and stick to them. Make sure you communicate these clearly, and in advance. Different students are motivated in different ways. Think of ways to help your child stay motivated. Model and speak with optimism and resilience.

- *Celebrate What is Going Well*

Recognize positive achievements—even smaller ones. This encourages your child to do their best and helps let them know that you notice.

- *Get and Stay Organized*

Help your child get and stay organized; this applies to both materials and time management.

- *Model the Importance of Language*

Talk with and listen to your children. Language is like a four-legged stool: speaking, listening, reading, and writing support the other. Set the example. Be sure your child sees you reading for understanding and for pleasure. Share reading with your child every chance you get—even if it's just part of a newspaper or online article.

- *Affirm and Support*

For many reasons, adolescence is a challenging time. Remind your child that he or she does not have to be extraordinary at everything. Encourage them to explore new learnings and praise them to do their best, knowing that each child will discover areas they excel in, and others they will not enjoy as much.

Questions?

Contact your child's School and/or The School District of Greenfield at **414-855-2050**