

Family Engagement Month and Beyond

Because this sheet is meant to foster dialog between schools and districts, the Georgia Department of Education does not monitor this list. Please seek further guidance/ approval as appropriate.

Various Examples Offered by Georgia and other SEA Parent and Family Engagement Programs

- Creatively brand, market, and establish a special promotional video campaign for districts and schools - highlighting stakeholder engagement and student academic achievement.
- Understanding Standards, Curriculum and Assessments Night- Come to hear a video message from our Superintendent. Parents will learn about educational resources to support their child's academic success.
- Understanding Lexile Scores- Our school's Specialist will talk about Lexile Framework to support their child's reading ability and interests.
- National Family Engagement Day - Writer's Workshop Day Teachers will engage parents and students in the writing process. Students will share their stories with their families. Have students and parents write thank you notes to the governor for proclamation.
- Math Strategy Day - Parents will explore the math strategies and resources during their child's math class. This strategy will help their child improve solving math word problems.
- Submit an ad in the local newspaper reminding community that November is Family Engagement Month in Georgia.
- The schools send a message reminding the community that November is Family Engagement Month in Georgia.
- Host family engagement workshops, such as a Family Learning Game Night.
- Post pictures throughout common school areas of families engaged with their children at home and in the community in learning experiences.
- Community businesses offer incentives centered around learning and family engagement for families and educators
- Invite all family members to visit libraries where family activities are planned for them.
- Invite all family members to visit the Parent Resource Center to borrow resources and learn what resources are available to check out to assist with learning at home.
- Partner with community organizations to "Cook with Academics" while families learn math, literacy, and team building skills. Send letters to employers thanking them for allowing their employee time for quality learning time.
- Host a drop-in Curriculum Lunch & Learn event in conjunction with the meal in the cafeteria. Set up four stations parents can complete independently set up in the media center. Have a combination of staff, students, and parent volunteers available to facilitate as needed. Each parent leaves with an academic thank you goodie bag with a puzzle reflecting the message "when all the pieces are fit together," there is an informational sheet on supporting home learning. A second sheet includes the web addresses for the referenced sites and QR codes with a thank you message on the reverse. Research Connection: Dr. Ruby Payne has identified three essential elements to outreach effectively to families:
 - The use of video modeling
 - The use of verbal and visual information (as opposed to just verbal/ written information)
 - The use of training on simple, how-to activities that parents can do with children.

(Source: Working with Parents: Building Relationships for Students Success. Ruby Payne, Ph.D., 2006)

Submissions from our LEA/ School Family Engagement Partners

Tammie Gibbs	Camden County Schools	We invite parents to join their children for our Thanksgiving food celebration. We are running a drop-in Curriculum Lunch & Learn event in conjunction with the meal in the cafeteria. There will be four stations parents can complete independently set up in the media center. We will have a combination of staff, students, and parent volunteers available to facilitate as needed. Each parent will also leave with a thank you goodie bag with a puzzle. When "all the pieces are fit together" there is an informational sheet on supporting home learning. A second sheet includes the web addresses for the referenced sites and QR codes with a thank you message on the reverse. Of course, there will be a little candy in there for our sweet parents!	
Lisa Daughtrey	Tift County Schools	K-2 grades have invited their parents, grandparents, or special guest for a time of reading outdoors on blankets enjoying the beautiful fall weather. This informal time of sharing will give parents/guest an opportunity to hear their student read and learn the fundamentals for helping their child read at home. Parents will be given information to use at home for helping their child improve their reading skills, including comprehension and fluency. Third grade students will enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving feast with parents. Teachers will discuss the history of Thanksgiving. Parents and students will complete a "I am thankful" activity.	
Jennifer Priser	Odyssey Charter School	K-8 Pastries with Parents Nov. 7-11. Parents will meet in cafeteria where stations for PowerSchool, food program, and the Parent Resource Center will be set up. They will also be able to meet and speak with administrators and school board members while enjoying a pastry. The parents will then go to the classrooms and participate in a lesson.	
Cindy Smith	Pelham City Schools		

Vicki Dent	Bibb County School District	<p>On Monday, November 14th @ 5:00 PM- Understanding Standards, Curriculum and Assessments Night- Come hear a video message from Dr. Curtis Jones, BCSD Superintendent. Parents will learn about educational resources to support their child's academic success. Tuesday, November 15th @ 9:30 a.m. Understanding Lexiles Scores- Our school's Media Specialist, Shanta Johnson, will talk about Lexile Framework to support their child's reading ability and interests. Wednesday, November, 17th- National Parental Involvement Day-Writer's Workshop Day- Teachers will engage parents and students in the writing process. Students will share their stories with their families on Friday "the VOICE" Cafe". Thursday, November 18th-RICE Strategy Day-Parents will explore the RICE strategy during their child's math class. This strategy will help their child improve solving math word problems.</p>	
Amy Banks	Lamar County School District	<p>I have provided each student with a copy of the thank you letter and the Proclamation from Governor Deal. I submitted an ad in the local newspaper reminding our community that November is National Parent Engagement Month. The school sign has a message reminding our community the November is National Parent Engagement Month. I will be hosting two parent/family engagement workshops on Thursday, November 10, 2016. Parents will receive a school message reminding them that November is National Parent Engagement Month and share some ideas of how they are involved in the education of their children and also share some pictures of family engagement activities on the Lamar County School District's facebook page.</p>	

Baronda Leogrande	Columbia County School District	<p>Euchee Creek Elementary hosted our first "Parent Academy" on Thursday, November 17, 2016. We offered a range of classes for parents to attend so they could learn from the teachers just as their child does in the classroom. We had over 70 parent-students attend. Parents learned math strategies, reading strategies etc. and we're given take-home kits, manipulatives, STEM activity kits and instructions, books to "closely" read with their child among other items. Our PTO provided a meal and some of our teachers along with local high school Honor Society students provided child care. This was a successful outreach and a great opportunity for us to build capacity with our staff and stakeholders. Feedback surveys will be emailed to attendees and the information gathered will then be used to make our next "Parent Academy" and even larger success.</p>	<p>http://www.ccboe.net/pages/Columbia_County</p>
JJ Rowland	Johnson County Schools	<p>For K-5 we will be celebrating Parent Engagement Month with a Parent Picnic. Parents are invited to join their child for lunch. Our parent group has worked extremely hard to make sure this is a fun and enjoyable event for our families. There will be a photo booth, lemonade stand and resource table for parents with information about the importance of playing a role in your child's school success. Our parent group members will also be sharing ways to get involved and volunteer. Our middle school is celebrating with a game night with Georgia History Jeopardy and Social Studies BINGO. We will also serve hotdogs and the fixings. At the High School we will have a parent workshop focusing on parenting skills and staying involved in your child's education. I provided both local newspapers with an article letting the community know November is National Parent Engagement Month and ways they can support learning. We are excited about the activities we have planned!</p>	
Azuree Walker	Atlanta Public Schools	<p>We have quarterly chat and chews where our principal meets with parents and discusses one specific at home strategy for student success</p>	

Ginger Rowston	Rome City Schools	<p>Rome City Schools hosted many events across the district on November 17, 2016 to celebrate Family Engagement Month. These events included Thanksgiving luncheons, student performances, literacy events, and parent/family Thanksgiving STEM workshops. At each school, the theme was to thank, celebrate and honor all of our parents and caregivers for all their many contributions at school and at home to support student success . Students made posters and displayed them as parents arrived in the morning and at dismissal time. The district made a video to display on our district website and our Rome City Schools Family Engagement Facebook page. Each school also has a link to the video on their individual school website. I have also provided the local newspaper with photos from across our district along with commentary about how much Rome City Schools appreciates all the parents, families and stakeholders that work hand in hand everyday to help make every child's potential a reality! It was an awesome day!</p>	
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Karen Dawson	Glynn County Schools	<p>Jane Macon Middle School invited parents to come to school to spend the day with their child or children, for National Parent Involvement and Family engagement day on November 17, 2017. We had 55 parents to attend. This is the agenda that we followed: Parents and students arrived at 8:00 am Parents were greeted by a parent volunteer Parents signed in Parents and students ate breakfast together in the school media center While everyone ate breakfast the school principal welcomed them and explained the protocol for visiting classrooms- parents were asked to observe and only interact with their child One of the school counselors explained the process for setting up a conference with teachers The assistant principal spoke to parents and students and dismissed everyone to first period Parents shadowed their students through Thanksgiving lunch Event ended at 12:50 pm Parents dropped off their evaluations to the parent and family engagement coordinator Parents were very pleased with the event and requested that we have it twice a year. Well, maybe we will stick with annually for now.</p>	<p>Here is the link to a power point with the highlights of the event: http://flashmedia.glynn.k12.ga.us/webpages/kdawson/files/jane%20macon%20middle%20school-come%20to%20school%20with%20your%20child%20day.pptx</p>
Yolondias Colquitt	Social Circle City Schools	<p>Social Circle Primary and Elementary School host Thankful for Families lunches for all students and families during November. Students and parents write about their Thanksgiving family tradition prior to the event and the writings are displayed all around the school during the event. We have tons of people come out for this event. It has been a huge success. I also sent out a flier giving parents tips on ways to engage their child daily academically.</p>	

Andrea Knapp	Griffin-Spalding County School System partnering with UGA Griffin Campus and the Math for Adults Foundation	Math and Parent Partners Sessions will be held January 26-March 30. Families and teachers from the Griffin-Spalding County School System are invited to UGA Griffin for up to eight sessions on how to help children with math.	See https://www.mapsfoundation.com/
Elizabeth Hemphill	Savannah-Chatham County	Southwest Elementary School held our Math/Science/Technology Event in November, and it was quite successful! Each grade level split in half to either do one or two Math make-and-take games or one or two science experiements. Students were also able to go home with addition, subtraction, multiplication, or division flashcards based on their level. We had our computer lab open with numerous math and science websites avaiable for parents to take home. Our parents thoroughly enjoyed the event!	
Tonya Armstrong	McIntosh County	We invited parents to our two dayThanksgiving Feast at our Elementary school as well as the Middle School giving parents, grandparents, and the family the opportunity to have lunch with their child and teacher. The Pre-K students put on a thanksgiving program implementing what they have learned thus far using their alphabets and number recognition skills. The parent volunteers passed out flyers to encourage parents to go on twitter to join in on the Parent Engagement live twitter conversation for feedback. We sent home the Proclamation from Governor Nathan Deal with each student. The Middle School gave parents, board memebers and community partners the opportunity to walk through the Science labs to judge students science projects after having lunch.	