



## **Power Center Academy Middle School – Hickory Hill**

5449 Winchester Road  
Memphis, TN 38122

### **2023 – 2024 Parent and Family Engagement Plan**

**Vision:** Gestalt Community Schools' vision is building better communities through education.

**Mission:** The mission of Gestalt Community Schools is to leverage community assets to empower citizens who will be college-ready, career-ready, and community-ready. We will achieve this mission by providing students with an exceptional educational program defined by rigorous curriculum standards, high expectations for academic achievement, integrated technology, and community service.

#### **Our Core Values**

- **Achievement:** We strive for excellence in the classroom and in the community.
- **Community:** We believe collaboration is key to personal growth and neighborhood revitalization.
- **Humility:** We know the work we do is bigger than us. We are accountable to our scholars, our peers, and the neighborhoods we serve.
- **Innovation:** We strive to evolve faster than the world around us. We can be our best only if we are willing to re-evaluate and refine what we do.
- **Zeal:** We believe the core of our drive to succeed is derived from our compassion for the communities we serve.

#### **Purpose:**

At Power Center Academy Middle School – Hickory Hill, we believe that when families are actively engaged in their child's education, scholars thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Our goal is to create a collaborative partnership between families, educators, and the community to support scholars' success and well-being.

#### **GOALS:**

**Academic Achievement:** Enhance scholar learning and academic achievement by involving families in their child's education and providing resources for academic support at home.

**Communication:** Establish effective two-way communication between the school and families to ensure that families are informed and engaged in school activities and their child's progress.

**Family Support:** Provide families with the necessary tools, resources, and information to support their child's learning and development.

**Inclusivity:** Celebrate and respect the diversity of our school community by creating an inclusive and welcoming environment for all families.

**Partnerships:** Build strong partnerships between the school, families, and the community to support scholar success and well-being.

## **STRATEGIES + INITIATIVES**

### **Academic Achievement:**

- **Parent-Teacher Conferences:** Conduct regular parent-teacher conferences to discuss scholar progress, set academic goals, and address any concerns. While we encourage parents and teachers to establish a rapport for constant communication, we have three designated days throughout the school year that will be reserved for school-wide parent teacher conferences.
  - September 8<sup>th</sup>
  - December 8<sup>th</sup>
  - February 16<sup>th</sup>
- **Academic Workshops:** Offer workshops for parents on topics such as study skills, homework help, and understanding the curriculum.
  - PowerSchool Training
  - Schoology + Clever Workshop
  - “Let’s Taco About Data” Knight
  - “It’s All Over The Place” - Organizing Your Scholar in Middle School
- **Tutoring and Mentoring Programs:** Provide opportunities for scholars to receive additional academic support outside of regular school hours. Each teacher must provide tutoring for at least 1 hour per week to scholars who need support the most.

### **Communication:**

- **Parent Communication Channels:** Establish clear and accessible communication channels for parents, such as a school newsletter, website, and social media platforms. We use the following platforms to communicate with our families:
  - SwiftK12 Plugin – provides opportunities for mass emails to be sent to all parents in our PowerSchool system.
  - Family Newsletters – Parents receive bi-weekly newsletters with our events, activities, important information, and feedback opportunities.
  - Facebook Page – We use our school Facebook page to be informative as well as celebrate our school community’s achievements in academics and culture.
  - Written Communication/Letters Home: We will use written communication to send home with scholars periodically to provide an additional layer of support.
- **Parent Education Sessions:** Offer sessions for parents on how to effectively communicate with teachers and advocate for their child's needs. We partner with our network NICE Team (Network of Inclusion, Culture, and Equity) to provide sessions for parents such as ESL Classes for parents, Parent Advocacy training, Communicating with a Middle School Scholar, and more.

### **Family Support:**

- **Parent Resource Center:** We have reserved a space in our school that serves as a resource center with materials and resources for parents on topics such as parenting skills, child development, and academic support.

- **Family Engagement Events:** We organize and implement events and activities that involve families in the school community, such as family nights, workshops, and volunteer opportunities.
  - PAC (Parent Advisory Council) Meetings (bi-monthly)
  - Muffins with Moms Parent Event
  - Donuts with Dads Parent Event
  - VIP (Very Important Person) Appreciation Brunch
  - Parent Ambassadors and PAC Leaders Meeting
  - International Thanksgiving – Parent donations
- We have Family Engagement Liaisons that are a support for our parents and help to bridge the gap between home and school. Our FELs meet with parents regarding attendance, grades, and other needs or resources (i.e. grief counseling) that may arise.

### **Inclusivity:**

- **Cultural Celebrations:** Celebrate the diverse cultures and backgrounds of our school community through cultural events, performances, and displays.
  - Hispanic Heritage Month
  - Black History Month
  - International Thanksgiving
  - Women’s Appreciation Month
  - Red Ribbon Week
  - Autism Awareness Month and other awareness dates
- **Language Support:** Provide language support for families who speak languages other than English, including translated materials and interpreters at school events.

### **Partnerships:**

- **Community Partnerships:** Collaborate with community organizations and businesses to provide resources and support for families, such as health services, counseling, and afterschool programs.
- **Parent Advisory Council:** Establish a parent advisory council to provide feedback and input on school policies, programs, and initiatives.

### **Implementation and Evaluation:**

- **Action Plan:** Develop a detailed action plan with specific goals, activities, timelines, and responsibilities for each initiative. Be sure to list them on the school calendar.
- **Evaluation:** Regularly evaluate the effectiveness of the engagement plan through surveys, focus groups, and feedback from families and school staff.
- **Continuous Improvement:** Use evaluation data to make improvements and adjustments to the plan to better meet the needs of families and scholars.