



Parents* are expected to bring students to school every day on time. Parents are also responsible for monitoring students' assignments, homework, and school-related tasks. Teachers send home a weekly homework folder listing all class work, homework, and assessments for the week to be signed by parents. Students complete points earned out of total. Teachers also send home monthly newsletters detailing classroom activities. (1118 (3) National Standard 1)

Teachers also keep logs documenting communications with parents. These are calls concerning academic progress, behavior, or conference appointments. (1118 (3) National Standard 1)

The Dearborn Academy strongly encourages parents to volunteer a minimum of (8) hours per school year. A calendar is provided to parents indicating available dates and times to volunteer. Eight (8) hours may be completed in one (1) day or in several short blocks of time. A parent may chaperone on field trips, supervise during special activities, assist teachers with daily routines, attend a child's class, or monitor halls and/or the lunch room. Parents who attend a child's class may also choose to read aloud, teach a craft, or share a cultural activity.

The Dearborn Academy routinely involves parents in their children's education through the following means:

- At the time of enrollment and Open House, parents are acquainted with the Student/Parent Handbook. Along with their students, they are asked to sign the Parent/Student Contract, which is then placed in the student's CA-60. This way, parents understand basic school policies and agree in writing to adhere to them.
- An Open House is held at the beginning of each school year, which serves as an orientation for parents. We present items related to curriculum, the Annual Education Report, Student/Parent Handbook, SIP Goals, and ESL programs for students and parents. (1118 (f)) Translators are always available at all parent meetings to assist parents who speak diverse languages. (1118 (5) National Standard I) Parents then visit classrooms, meet their children's teachers, and further discuss school policies.
- Parents join teachers for quarterly Parent-Teacher Conferences. The fourth quarter conference is student-led; students showcase their work and, in their own words, they share what they have learned with their parents. (National Standard I)
- Quarterly parent meetings are held during which a large, buffet-style dinner is served, and a member of the community is invited to speak about matters pertaining to parenting, student health, academic progress, and well-being. School staff takes the opportunity to assist parents with homework assistance and literacy skills. Student behavior plans can be developed for students who need them. (National Standards I,II)
- Parents are invited to have Coffee with The Principal for meetings that involve MEAP results and EdYes! Reports. During these meetings, state contents and standards are explained. (1118 (1,2) National Standards I,III)
- Many parents participate in Career Day. People from all career areas visit classrooms to explain the type of education they have received and the nature of the work they do on a regular basis. This is a prime opportunity for parents and other adults in the community to give encouragement and guidance to aspiring students. (National Standard IV)
- The Dearborn Academy holds a Scholastic Book Fair in the fall and spring. Parents can visit the school at that time in order to purchase quality reading material for their students. (National Standard III)
- Also, in spring, The Dearborn Academy sponsors a Parent Literacy Workshop, during which parents are shown how to help their students with reading and monitor their progress. (1118 (1,2) National Standard III) This is followed by Reading Bingo. Teachers and students and their families contribute books they have finished reading and no longer need. All participants then play many varieties of Bingo to win books as prizes. This activity is held to encourage student reading and parent involvement in their student's literacy progress.
- Also in the spring, The Dearborn Academy holds a Math Game Night for students and parents to enjoy Math games together. (National Standard III)
- March is Readers Are Leaders month. Leaders from the community come in to the school to speak to children about the importance of reading. Parents are welcome to participate at this time as well, either as speakers or observers. (National Standard III)
- A K-5 Talent Show is held in March, which showcases students' finest talents for their parents.

Parents have many ways and opportunities to volunteer at The Dearborn Academy. Field Day, Honor Roll Field Trips, MEAP Skating parties, Earth Day activities, the Science Fair, and Project-Based Learning all give parents a special



avenue to participate. Also, teachers can always use an extra hand for classroom activities or special, curriculum-related field trips. (National Standard IV)

The Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) has been especially active in organizing the Candy Gram sale on Valentine's Day and assisting the annual Canned Food Drive.

Parents participate in School Improvement and Strategic Planning. (National Standard V)

The Dearborn Academy collaborates with ACCESS, Zaman, and ACES to assist parents with family, child-rearing, and education issues. (National Standard II) In addition, the school's full-time psychologist and social worker collaborate with other schools and therapeutic agencies to provide proper placement and services for students with special needs. (1118 (4)(f) National Standards II,VI)

The school principal maintains an open-door, parent-first policy. (1118 (14)).

*Throughout the document, "parent" is meant to include any relative or guardian who has care and custody of the child.



We need to add/do differently:

Weekly Homework Folder for Teachers/Parents/Students

Parent Call Logs for Teachers

A Volunteer Date/Time Calendar for Parents Documenting 8 Hours of Volunteer Time

Open House: Curriculum, AER, Handbook, SIP, ELPA

Coffee & Tea & Meet The Principal for MEAP Meeting & EdYes Meeting

Four parent meetings on topics like the following:

- Health

- Academic Progress

- Overall Well-Being

- Homework & Literacy Skills

Math Game Night: Have MS students create games.

Parent Literacy Workshop—maybe together with Reading Bingo? One hour of each?

Teachers expressed that they DO NOT WANT Special Persons Day. Can these activities be replaced by volunteer activities?

Explain ACCESS, ZAMAN, ACES—what these agencies are and what they do

Get more parents on SIP & Strategic Plan