



Parent and Family Engagement Policy

2023-2024 School Year

I. Parent and Family Engagement Policy

The administration, staff, and parents of Merry Oaks International Academy believe that the academic achievement of each student is a responsibility shared by the entire school community, including the school district, community members, school administration, staff, students, and parents or guardians. Our Parental Involvement Policy outlines the parent involvement activities that will be conducted during the school year. Our Parental Involvement Policy was designed by a school-based team of administrators, teachers, teacher assistants, parents, and PTA members.

II. Annual Information Meeting:

On September 26 and 28, we will hold our Annual Title I Review / Back-to-School Curriculum Night. This meeting will give parents the opportunity to learn about the Pre-K - 5th grade curriculum and provide input for school improvement and parent involvement initiatives we have as a Title I School. This meeting will also provide information regarding:

- a. An explanation of the curriculum, assessment forms, and proficiency levels and state standards
- b. Our school performance profile
- c. An explanation of our instructional program
- d. A discussion of the importance of homework, attendance, tardiness, and feelings about school

III. Flexible Parent Meeting Times

This year we will ensure maximum parental involvement in school opportunities and meetings by using a flexible schedule. Some Parent events we will have will include: monthly Principal Breakfast meetings,, School Leadership Team Meetings. PTA Meetings, Food Pantry, Math and Literacy nights, and more!

IV. Title I Part A Planning/Regular Communication

Communication with parents is crucial for student academic success. Merry Oaks International Academy uses a variety of methods to communicate with our parents and school community.

- a. **ParentSquare:** ParentSquare will be the district-wide communication platform that we use. It is a free app available in the Google Play or App Store. This app allows all parents to keep in regular, direct contact with their child's teacher. Your child's teacher will provide information regarding signing in to the app.
- b. **Merry Oaks Newsletters:** Grade-levels, EC, and ML departments will provide newsletters that explain what your child is currently learning in their classes, upcoming grade-level or school-wide events, and suggestions on how to work with your child. Monthly events will also be sent via ParentSquare.
- c. **Agendas:** All Kindergarten through Fifth grade students will receive an agenda to record daily assignments. The agendas are used to send daily messages between parents/guardians and the classroom teacher.
- d. **Thursday Folders:** A communication folder will be sent home every Thursday with important school or classroom information. Please sign any forms and return the folder to school on Fridays.
- e. **Parent-Teacher Conferences:** Fall Parent-Teacher conferences are scheduled to start the week of October 30th, 2023. Teachers will be available to review your child's progress and answer any questions you may have. Parents may schedule additional conferences as needed.

V. Merry Oaks Learning Compact

Parents will receive a copy of the Merry Oaks International Academy School Compact at Open House. We believe that our students do their best through the teamwork of parents, families, students, and school staff. The learning compact is an agreement between Merry Oaks' families and the school that describes how we will work together to support student learning during the school year.

VI. Building Parent Involvement Capacity

- a. **Parent Workshops:** Merry Oaks will offer parent workshops in which staff members provide parent awareness and help regarding different educational topics related to their child's education.
- b. **School Improvement Planning:** Parents are encouraged to participate in school improvement planning for our school by participating in any of the following activities:
 - i. **School Leadership Team:** Parents may serve as members of the School Improvement Team of Merry Oaks International Academy. This body is charged with drafting the annual School Improvement Plan.
 - ii. **Providing Feedback:** All parents may share their thoughts, hopes, and ideas for increasing student achievement at Merry Oaks and enhancing our school culture. We will send surveys during the beginning, middle, and end of the school year to gather feedback surrounding school improvement.
 - iii. **School Leadership Team/PTA Meetings:** All parents are invited and encouraged to participate in our School Leadership Team and PTA meetings where we will discuss the School Improvement Plan and track progress towards our goals. The School Leadership Team meets on the third Thursday of each month.

VII. Parents of LEP and Exceptional Students

We will provide full access to parental involvement activities for parents of Exceptional Students and Limited English Proficiency. The school will translate documents that will be sent home to parents. The school will have access to interpreters when needed to aid in communication between staff and parents.

VIII. Reservation of Funds for Parental Involvement

Merry Oaks International Academy will reserve Title I Funds to carry out our parent involvement activities. We will request parent feedback for recommendations for using Parent Involvement funds through our PTA and during Parent Involvement activities.

IX. Annual Evaluation

As a school community, we will review the effectiveness of our parent involvement policy in improving our school during our Annual Title I Meeting and School Improvement Planning process.

We invite you to call the school to ask any questions you may have or to schedule a visit or meeting. It is our hope that your child will have a wonderful learning experience at Merry Oaks International Academy. Parents will be encouraged to participate in the School Leadership Team, Parent Teacher Association (PTA), and other school activities. Parents are also welcomed to submit Parent Involvement activity requests to our Parent Involvement Committee.

As always, Merry Oaks will be sensitive to the cultural background of parents, students and the community in general and will provide a welcoming environment for all.