

**Centerville City Schools**

***Family Engagement Core Values***

**What is Family Engagement?**

Family engagement is the purposeful and intentional inclusion of all families in the planning, execution, and evaluation of activities and programs that promote children’s development, learning, and wellness.

**Essential Practices for Family Engagement:**

* **Listen First:** Proactively cultivate a culture of listening in order to build trust and support the dreams and goals of the community. Seek to discover strengths and build upon them.
* **Accept and seek to understand inequities in society:**  Inequities in schools occur because of structures that exist in society. Operate under the truth that these societal structures are also present in schools. Educators, students, and families should collaborate to challenge these inequities.
* **Work *With* Instead of Doing *To* or *For:*** Community solutions cannot be resolved through one-way, transactional giving, but through transformative *relationships* that partner with families.
* **Understand and Value Families:**  Educators believe that a family’s cultural practices and beliefs are important, the family has strengths, they care for their child and they have expert knowledge about their child. All are welcome, but all are also included and *belong*.
* **Communicate without Barriers:** Communicate in a way that is non-threatening, understandable, and ongoing. Families do desire to support their children’s learning, but are sometimes intimidated. Focus on the need to create the conditions that promote engagement rather than an individual’s responsibility to engage.
* **Link to Learning:** Each communication and event should provide families with a better understanding of how they can support their child’s positive behavior and learning.Engagement launches children’s learning, everyone has an important role, and teamwork and consistent communication are key to the mission.