

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

at

Putnam Avenue Upper School



Core Practices

Annual Back to School Night & Community Cookout

Each year over 400 people turn out to kick off the beginning of the school year in style! The night includes a meet and greet with families, staff, out-of-school providers, and city-wide community organizations, as well as a cookout supported by local businesses and a variety of rousing live performances.



International Potluck & Report Card Pick-Up

The annual, international potluck and report card pick-up offers families an opportunity to pick up their child's report card, chat with Putnam Ave. staff and families, as well as share a dish from their culture.



Community Conversations: Identity & Diversity

The members of the Putnam Ave. school community, the King, the Kennedy-Longfellow, and Morse schools as well as members from various community organizations gathers for *Community Conversations: Identity & Diversity* three times a year. The evening kicks off with a delicious, full dinner. Christina Brown of The New Teacher Project and Dr. Mona Abo-Zena of the University of Massachusetts lead the group in a series of discussions focused on how to foster positive identity development in our children in regards to race, class, culture, sexual orientation, and religion. Free childcare is provided.

Rolling Conferences

Instead of one parent/teacher night a year, Putnam Ave. encourages parents/guardians to schedule a meeting with their child's teacher at ANY point during the school year. To sign up, families contact their child's advisor or grade team leader to set up a time that works for both you and the team. Grade teams also reach out to families to schedule conferences as need be.

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Founding Head of School,
Mirko Chardin

Founding Assistant Principal,
Pamela Chu-Sheriff

Overview of Opportunities to Engage with Families

School Council

School Council is an advisory board to the principal comprised of parents/caregivers, teachers, and administrators. The council meets monthly to learn more about the school's work, which is grounded in the district's strategic objectives. The monthly meetings feature grade-level, specialty, and special education updates, as well as offer a topic of focus (data, instruction and learning, cultural proficiency, restorative practices) and an opportunity to ask questions. Minutes can be found on the school website.

Putnam Avenue Family Association

The mission of the Putnam Avenue Family Association (PAFA) is to support all students' academic and social emotional growth. We will celebrate the diversity of our community. We will create and maintain a true collaboration among parents, caregivers, staff, and community figures. We will embrace and encourage uniqueness and foster the individual goals of all students. By working together we will model the school vision and values. We will accomplish our mission through community building events, developing partnerships, and identifying and obtaining resources.

Ongoing Forms of Communication

- Rolling Parent Conferences
- Continuous Online Aspen Access
- Monthly Grade Reports
- Monthly School Newsletter
- Monthly Grade-Level Team Updates (email)
- Quarterly Warning Notices
- Quarterly Progress Reports
- Quarterly Outside of School Offerings Brochure
- Robo-Calls
- Weekly Take Home Tuesday and Thursday (email and backpack)
- School Website
- Monthly Food Pantry for Families
- Weekend Backpack Food Program for Families

Annual Events

- Back to School Night & Community Cookout
- Community Conversations: Identity & Diversity (3 per year)
- Winter and Spring Concert
- 8th Grade Career Night
- Report Card Pick-Up & International Potluck
- School Play (2 nights plus performance for incoming 5th graders)
- Literacy Festival
- Fifth Grade Family Night