

Parent Engagement Plan - 1st Lutheran School

Vision Statement

1st Lutheran School provides a Christ-centered, family-focused, student-driven education impacting the community and the world.

Goals

1. Strengthen communication between the school, teachers, and parents to reflect our shared Christian mission.
 2. Encourage active parental involvement in school activities, church ministries, and spiritual growth opportunities.
 3. Equip parents with resources rooted in faith to support their child's academic and spiritual journey.
 4. Build a Christ-centered community among parents, students, and staff.
 5. Build relationships with parents by supporting the various needs of families.
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Strategies and Initiatives

1. Strengthen Faith-Focused Communication

- **Weekly newsletters:** Include scripture, prayer requests and reflections alongside updates, important dates and classroom highlights (ex: Monday note, Wednesday Christ Connection note).
- **Parent Portal:** Provide training on FACTS where parents can access grades, assignments, and messages along with reminders for spiritual events like Chapels and service projects.
- **Social Media:** Include information on private Facebook Families page and individual class pages to ensure parents are up-to-date with events and highlight student accomplishments and activities.
- **Elders:** Create groups with the elders of the church where they reach out to families to welcome them to 1st Lutheran and to provide any help to the family when needed.
- **Board of Christian Education:** Provide a schedule of BCE monthly meetings to families and encourage them to attend.
- **Military:** Coordinate with leadership at Foreign Military Sales and Air National Guard to request the help of the military chain of command to determine specific needs of military families and to also present information at family readiness activities on base.

2. Involvement Opportunities

- **Volunteer programs:** Create roles where parents can contribute to the school while reflecting Christ's love (ex: Panther PTO, classroom volunteers, Chili Cook-off, Field Day).

- **Faith-Based Events:** Encourage parent attendance in chapel services, singing at First Lutheran Church twice a year, attending Bible studies and faith-based parenting classes.
- **Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO):** Foster a group focused on enhancing the school's mission with time for devotions or prayer at the beginning of each meeting.
- **Military:** Coordinate with leadership at Foreign Military Sales and Air National Guard to invite military service members and their families to participate in workshops and special events for parents.

3. Faith and Educational Workshops

- **Faith:** Host workshops to support parents in spiritual aspects of parenting (ex: Bible studies and Lutheran doctrine classes).
- **Educational:** Host workshops to support parents in practical aspects of parenting (ex: Love & Logic and Safe Internet Use).
- **Resources:** Provide resources to integrate Christian values into daily family life (ex: weekly Christ Connection email).
- **Staff:** Invite military service members or their spouses to attend faculty meetings to educate faculty members about the needs of the military community and the challenges military children face.

4. Build Relationships Rooted in Faith

- **Teacher Events:** Plan events hosted by the teachers to bring families together (ex: Sock Hop, Curriculum Night, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, and Family Nights).
- **Parent Socials:** Plan events that encourage parents to fellowship with each other (ex: class parties, Parents Night Out, and game nights).
- **Parent-Teacher Conferences:** Open each meeting with prayer and ensure conversations reflect a shared commitment to the child's growth in faith and learning.

5. Community and Ministry Engagement

- **Family Service Projects:** Encourage families to participate in activities (ex: National Lutheran Schools Week, Blessing Boxes, local food drives, and chapel offerings) or church outreach events (ex: Fall Fest, Christmas caroling, and Easter Egg Hunt), modeling Christ's example of service.
- **Worship Opportunities:** Invite families to attend school chapel services, Sunday worship or special events (See You at the Pole, Christmas programs, Easter services, and National Day of Prayer).

6. Military

- **Communication:** Communicate and work with military families as they transition into the school by providing additional services as needed (ex: school programs, virtual opportunities, outreach teams, student tutoring, activities to help with transition of student and family).
- **Events:** Host events to support our military and their families (Veteran's Day, Purple Up Day, Christmas Honors, and Memorial Day flags).

7. Gather Feedback for Continuous Growth

- **Surveys:** Include questions about how the school supports their family's faith development.
 - **PTO meetings:** Host quarterly meetings where parents can reflect on past quarter events and help plan future events.
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Implementation Timeline

- **Quarter 1:** Launch/relaunch communication channels, including weekly notes with faith-focused content, and parent portal, host Back to School Bash, parent orientation nights, first PTO meeting, Sock Hop, See You at the Pole, sing at church, monthly Chapels, and weekly Bible studies.
 - **Quarter 2:** Host parent-teacher conferences, Veteran's Day, Fall Fest, Christmas caroling, Christmas Honors, and Christmas programs.
 - **Quarter 3:** Recognize National Lutheran Schools Week, open house, sing at church, Chili Cook Off and Curriculum Night.
 - **Quarter 4:** Host parent-teacher conferences, Easter Egg Hunt, Field Day, Purple Up Day, Memorial Day flags, and National Day of Prayer.
 - **Ongoing:** Celebrate parent contributions, engage families in faith-based activities and maintain consistent, Christ-centered communication.
 - **Future Implementation:** Plan and implement buddy families, coffee chats, military family events, and Panther Pulse.
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Evaluation Metrics

- **Parent Participation Rates:** Track attendance at events, workshops, faith-based events, military events and volunteer opportunities.
- **Survey Results:** Assess parent satisfaction with how the school integrates faith into its engagement efforts.