

## PARENT ENGAGEMENT POLICY

Morris Jeff Community School offers an education that is a source of freedom and possibility for all students, permitting them to develop their talents fully, become contributing global citizens, and attain the foundation needed to excel at college, career, and beyond.

Morris Jeff Community School is committed to diversity in education and to providing a learning environment that is child-centered and fosters personal, creative and academic excellence. The International Baccalaureate Organization provides a developmentally appropriate curriculum framework for students around our globe. Our school is proud to be an authorized World School of the IBO.

Morris Jeff Community School believes strongly in the partnership of parents for the success of students at our school. We understand that what we offer to parents and families to support their children at our school is key to student academic achievement.

The Louisiana Department of Education proposes that schools loved by families are committed, collaborative, responsive, and respectful. Morris Jeff strives to engage families in these ways.

1. Morris Jeff focuses on understanding and helping families achieve their goals for their children and embraces these goals as its own.

- In September Student-Led Conferences, parents are encouraged to share their child's strengths, weaknesses, interests, and aspirations with their child and their student's teacher or advisor. (The student is an active participant, as is age-appropriate.) This information provides the teacher/advisor with perspective as the student's learning goals for the years are written together. In May, students reflect on their growth throughout the year and share with their parents and teacher/advisor.
  - A Learner Dashboard is developed for each middle school student that serves as a snapshot of individual student progress and goal tracking as they prepare for high school.
- Individual Graduation Plans are developed with all incoming high school freshmen and are revisited annually.
- Report cards serve as a quarterly communication with parents to let them know if they are on track to meet their goals for the year.
- Parents are encouraged to contact principals or teachers at any time to discuss their student's learning progress.

2. Morris Jeff actively and authentically engages families as [full partners](#), not service recipients. Everyone is

focused on helping the student achieve their learning goals.

- Morris Jeff hosts a parent and student online portal *Powerschool* that shows student's grades and attendance from PK-12. Each parent can create an account, connect with their student's data, and access it from a web browser or the mobile app at any time throughout the school year. To ensure that families are abreast of their student's learning, families should check their student's [Powerschool](#) each day after school for information related to assignments and homework. Our staff is available to assist families with access to Powerschool.
- Parent-Teacher conferences are composed of two student-led conferences (beginning and ending of the school year) and three report card conference nights. Families are required to attend both Student-Led Conferences (PreK-8th grade) and Report Card Conferences (if in danger of failing a subject area). At any time, families may request a conference with their student's teacher by calling the office and leaving a message along with a return phone number or via the teacher's school email. When possible, conferences with teachers can be pre-arranged for a convenient time for both the family and the teacher. Conferences are held in person when possible and virtually as necessary.
- In elementary school, parents are invited to receive text messages through Fast Track to provide them with engaging ways to encourage a love for literacy within their beginning and emerging readers.

3. Morris Jeff anticipates families' priorities and needs, responds quickly to their concerns, and communicates effectively.

- As a means of informing parents about our school life, Morris Jeff maintains a school website at [www.morrisjeffschool.org](http://www.morrisjeffschool.org), with news, events, policies, and information important to our students, families, and the community. Faculty and staff email addresses and campus phone numbers can be found on our website and in Powerschool. The Pelican Press, a weekly newsletter is emailed to all parents/guardians on the final day of the school week as a key way of communicating between school and home. Our academic calendar with important dates is published prior to the start of the year.
- Our staff is required to respond to parent emails within 1-2 business days unless requiring an immediate response. All parents are encouraged to Contact Us on our website or email [info@morrisjeffschool.org](mailto:info@morrisjeffschool.org) for response to their concerns and questions.
- At the end of the year, we survey elementary families and middle and high school students on our general school practices. Students are surveyed throughout the year to guide teacher development goals to meet the changing needs of our students.

4. Morris Jeff treats every family as worthy and important, acknowledging diverse perspectives and varying abilities.

- The school makes every effort for family messages to be sent in the family's home language, including phone calls, emails, and text messages. Translation services are provided whenever needed.
- The school has a relaxed dress code, offering many options for families, keeping uniform costs low.
- When possible, the school sends forms or surveys to be completed by email and text so that parents can complete them at their convenience.
- School events are planned with family work schedules in mind. Children are invited when possible.
  - Student performances, special events are held on weekends and/or the same evenings as report card conferences.
- Informational nights are offered annually for families at all 3 school campuses with a focus on the following:
  - International Baccalaureate programming
  - Curriculum
  - Grading
  - Discipline policies
  - School culture

5. Morris Jeff adults and students strive to model and meet the expectations of the International Baccalaureate [Learner Profile](#) attributes that are central to the development of an internationally minded citizen. They are:

- Caring
- Principled
- Open-Minded
- Inquirers
- Reflective
- Knowledgeable
- Thinkers
- Communicators
- Risk-takers