



## National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS)

### 2022 September E-Brief for Schools in NNPS



**Students are back in school. You can hear the school bells ring?  
Teachers, parents, and others have resources they bring.  
Now is the right time for partners to work together as one—  
To help all students succeed. —Let's get this job done!**

Welcome back to the 2022-23 school year! This will be *the* year to design and implement partnership activities focused on student success. Despite some vestiges of COVID, things are shaping up as “new normal.” NNPS will stay connected with you in our monthly *E-Briefs*. Check *E-Brief* each month for timely information to advance your leadership, plans, and practices of family and community engagement.

**THEME FOR THE YEAR.** NNPS selects a theme each year to feature in *E-Brief*. Last year, we focused on the NNPS 25th Anniversary and the progress we made in theory, research, and practice over the years with leaders—like YOU! In the 2022-23 school year our theme is:

### **Students' Roles in School, Family, and Community Partnerships**

Too often, students' roles in partnership activities are ignored. But students are the MAIN REASON for teachers, parents, and other partners to connect. Students are the main focus of official policies on partnerships. This year—in this space—we will feature examples of NNPS members' activities that give students important roles for successful family and community engagement. Students may be inviters, presenters, guides, performers, demonstrators, evaluators, or take other roles. We will feature activities from different sections of the new e-book, *Promising Partnership Practices 2022*.

We start this month with an activity in the Reading and Literacy section: *Cops and*

*Pops* reported by Tamula Dunmeyer, Key Contact to NNPS at **Chicora Elementary School**, Charleston County School District, South Carolina.

Fathers, father figures, and partners from the local police department signed up as reading buddies to more than 50 fifth-grade boys. They all read *The Stars Beneath Our Feet*—about a boy entering adolescence and the challenges he faces. Teachers provided questions for each pair to discuss as they read two-chapters at a time. Students increased thinking skills, vocabulary, and reading comprehension skills. They really enjoyed the book and their new reading partners.

### **Why is this a good example of students' roles in partnership activities?**

*Cops and Pops* focuses on increasing students' reading skills and positive attitudes. It builds relationships between students, dads, and community police. It gives *both* the adult volunteers *and* each student “say so” on *whether or not they want to return for their next meeting as reading buddies*. Take a look at details on this activity in the 2022 Edition of Promising Partnership Practices.

---

## **Promising Partnership Practices 2022 – New E-Book for YOU!**

This year's e-book, *Promising Partnership Practices 2022*, includes nearly 40 activities. Some members of NNPS were still restricted by COVID rules. They conducted excellent family engagement activities on *Zoom* or as *drive-thru*. Others were happy to bring family and community partners back to school for in-person activities--outdoors, indoors, and/or a mix of outdoor and indoor activities. Creativity is on every page of the new book. The is E-BOOK is E-Excellent!

An E-book-bonus: You will see color photos of several delightful activities in schools across the country. Thanks to all members who contributed to this colorful edition! **Take a look at the [2022 Edition of Promising Partnership Practices](#).**

---

## **NNPS 2022 Partnership Award Winners--Congratulations!**

Ten schools, four districts, and two organizations earned recognition this year for going beyond having a good “activity” to systemically building strong and sustainable programs of family and community engagement. The preschools, elementary, and high schools are in districts and organizations with strong leaders for partnerships. We see this connection over and over again when district leaders guide their schools to improve their partnership programs from one year to the next.

### **Partnership School Awards**

- Brooklyn Preschool, Cuyahoga County Universal Pre-Kindergarten / Starting Point, OH
- Carl B. Stokes Head Start Center, Cuyahoga County Universal Pre-Kindergarten/ Starting Point, OH
- Chicora Elementary School, Charleston County School District, SC
- Columbia High School, Richland County School District One, SC
- Frasch Elementary, Calcasieu Parish School Board, LA
- Hawthorne Elementary School, Seattle School District No. 1, WA
- Ladson Elementary School, Charleston County School District, SC
- McMillian Early Learning Center, Cuyahoga County Universal Pre-Kindergarten / Starting Point, OH
- Orchard Elementary School, Richland School District #400, WA

- Rowena Chess Elementary School, Pasco School District, WA

### **Partnership District Awards**

- Charleston County School District, Charleston SC
- Little Rock School District, Little Rock AR
- Pasco School District No. 1, Pasco WA
- Richland County School District One, Columbia, SC

### **Partnership Organization Awards**

- Francis Marion University—Center of Excellence to Prepare Teachers of Children of Poverty, Florence SC
- Ohio Statewide Family Engagement Center at The Ohio State University, Columbus OH

Read the awardees' activities in the new book of *Promising Partnership Practices 2022*. In a couple of weeks, their stories will be on the NNPS website.

---

## **NNPS UPDATE survey and RENEWAL**

### **Did YOUR Program Renew NNPS Membership for 2022-23?**

### **NOT YET? Let's get started!**

As many partnerships return to in-person activities this year, your work on family engagement is more important than ever! Thanks to all members of NNPS who returned the 2022 *UPDATE* to evaluate progress and renew membership in NNPS for the 2022-23 school year!

Were you delayed? Send in *UPDATE* NOW! Click on [NNPS UPDATE and Renewal for 22-23](#) and scroll down to complete the right *UPDATE* for your school, district, or organization.

As an active member, you will continue to receive all membership benefits (see the long list in Join NNPS at [www.partnershipschools.org](http://www.partnershipschools.org)). Send in both *UPDATE* and the \$250 renewal fee—ASAP—to remain a national leader of effective and equitable programs of family and community engagement.

---

## **YOUR SPACE**

We know it will be a year of partnership work and fun. This section of E-Brief invites YOU to share something exciting that is happening in your location. Or, send in a question to NNPS and we will help you—and others—solve an emerging challenge. When your school ATP or district or organization leadership office has something to share—something good, something challenging, something new, something improved—send in a few lines for the next issue of E-Brief.

We'll start strong in the October E-Brief! Remember: Your report or question does not have to be long—just a few sentences to highlight what you want to share or need to know. Send something for **YOUR SPACE** to: Brenda Thomas, [bthomas@jhu.edu](mailto:bthomas@jhu.edu).

---

## **NNPS and SOCIAL MEDIA**

**Just Released! Third Edition of Text for College**



## Courses

Dr. Joyce Epstein, Director, and Dr. Steve Sheldon, Associate Director of NNPS announce the new edition of their text, *School, Family, and Community Partnerships: Preparing Educators and Improving Schools*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. This book—updated, streamlined, and full of activities for college courses—aims to prepare future teachers and administrators to use research-based strategies to build strong and sustainable partnership programs when they start their professional careers. The new edition, published by Taylor & Francis, is ready for delivery. See [Text for college courses, Epstein & Sheldon, 3rd Edition.](#)

[Text for college courses, Epstein & Sheldon, 3rd Edition.](#)

## Great Ideas: Welcoming Families to YOUR School

NNPS partners at the Ohio Statewide Family Engagement Center released the August issue of *News and Guidance*. See many good ideas from Dr. Barbara Boone, OhSFEC Director, for welcoming all families as partners in the new school year—not just those who are already comfortable at school. See [Welcome Families as Partners-Open the Door to Student Success](#)

NNPS is on Facebook and Twitter. You will see extra items – including members' newsletters and photos of NNPS Leadership Institutes.

Like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/partnershipschoools>

Follow us on twitter [https://twitter.com/NNPS\\_JHU](https://twitter.com/NNPS_JHU)

NNPS Facebook is a networking tool. Please send photos of the partnership activities that you conduct throughout the year with a short sentence description and your name and affiliation to Rachel Chappell at [nnps@jhu.edu](mailto:nnps@jhu.edu). Rachel will select some to add to NNPS's Facebook page.

---

## NNPS Members-Only Access Code

The MEMBERS ONLY section of the NNPS website gives active members some special benefits. Use your Members-Only Access Code, **NNPSmem22**, to explore many years' books of *Promising Partnership Practices* and all 18 NNPS Samplers in the section Success Stories. The code will change in January 2023 for members who renewed membership for the 22-23 school year. We will keep you posted about the code to use in each *E-Brief*.

---

## INFORMATION, OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES

U.S. Department of Education, summarizes important data collected over the past two years. Results of national studies show that students' achievement and socio-emotional well-being were negatively impacted by school closures and requirements for remote learning. The negative effects of learning from home were strongest for students in marginalized racial groups and in families with low incomes.

The message for the 2022-23 school year is: We must provide every student—from every community and background—the opportunity to safely learn in-person full-time. See this summary at: [Supporting Students During the COVID-19 Pandemic:](#)

### [8 Ways Teachers Can Support Students' Mental Health --- UNICEF](#)

School teachers and staff are critical in supporting children's transition back to in-person classroom learning, particularly after extended periods of school closure. See good suggestions for teachers and share these with families, as needed, in communications about students' health and well-being.

---

## **SUPPORT NNPS**

NNPS, a non-profit professional development organization, guides educators to develop effective and equitable programs of family and community engagement for student success in school. We keep costs low by matching membership and renewal fees. Your donation supports NNPS's unique projects—books of *Promising Partnership Practices*, *Partnership Awards*, monthly *E-Briefs*, Annual Evaluations, and our excellent website.

Click the Donate link. Then, click on OTHER in the Johns Hopkins School of Education DESIGNATION box. **Specify: National Network of Partnership Schools.**

### **Donate!**

NNPS appreciates your tax-deductible donation. The University and NNPS will send official acknowledgements of your donation for tax purposes.

---



### **Welcome back, everyone!**

We look forward to a very productive-partnership year!

---

**In partnership,**

**Brenda, Rachel, Steven, and Joyce**  
*The NNPS Team*

