



National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS)

2022 October E-Brief for Districts, States, and Organizations



**School is in session and everyone's glad!
Action Teams organize partnerships—it's not a fad.
Students, families, and community partners work very hard
To support student success. It's *the* winning card!**

Monthly *E-Briefs* from NNPS include timely information to support and improve programs of family and community engagement. Don't forget to share a copy with all members on your leadership team!

THEME FOR THE YEAR: Students' Roles in School, Family, and Community Partnerships

Students are the *main reason* for teachers, parents, and other partners to connect. Students also are the *main focus* of official policies on partnerships. This year, we will feature examples of NNPS members' activities that give students important roles in family and community engagement. Students may be **inviters, presenters, guides, performers, demonstrators, participants, evaluators**, or take other roles. When students are active partners, more parents become engaged at school or at home.

This month we spotlight *Let's Get Everyone Involved*, reported by Melisa Crumpler, Key Contact to NNPS at **Frasch Elementary School**, Calcasieu Parish School District, Lake Charles, Louisiana. This was a well-planned series of three "send-home" projects in different school subjects for students to do with a parent or family partner.

1. *You are YOUUnique*. Students and parents decorated a snowflake showing something unique about the family.
2. *100 Days of Fun*. Students and parents created a collage showing "100" things that are fun for the family.

3. *Bloom Where You Are Planted*. Students and parents discussed how the student had grown during the year and wrote a short story on a flower-shape. Parents helped younger students and older students wrote for themselves.

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

Let's Get Everyone Involved responded to COVID restrictions on activities at school, but can be adapted by any school after in-person meetings at school are permitted. Students were in charge of the work they did on these activities in different subjects—language arts, math, and family history. At home, everyone could be involved, whereas some parents cannot always come to events at school. See page 20 in [*Promising Partnership Practices 2022*](#).



HOUSE CLEANING TASK

NNPS UPDATE and RENEWAL

**Did YOUR Program Renew
NNPS Membership
for 2022-23? NOT YET?
Time to send this in!**

As schools, districts, and organizations resume in-person partnership 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, renew membership in NNPS for the 2022-23 school year, and continue building excellent programs of partnerships linked to student success!

If you did not return your program's 2022 *UPDATE* to renew NNPS membership for the 2022-23 school year, NOW is the time! 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). So, keep your membership active by sending in both *UPDATE* and the \$250 renewal fee—ASAP—to remain a national leader of effective and equitable programs of family and community engagement.

Questions? Contact NNPS Coordinator, Rachel Chappell at nnps@jhu.edu.

YOUR SPACE

October is [Health Awareness Month](#). Click this link to find good information for your families, community partners, and, most importantly, your students. You

will find a feature on improving health for each month of the year!

The new NNPS e-book, *Promising Partnership Practices 2022*, shared some family and community engagement activities for health awareness. For example, Hawthorne Elementary School in Seattle, WA, conducted *Hawthorne's Quarantine Academy—the Sequel*. This was a series of virtual and in-person meetings for parents and students that maintained rules for health and safety. One topic was **Bringing Mindfulness Home: Help Students Create Balance and Reduce Stress**. Students experienced mindfulness lessons in class. Then, virtual sessions guided parents to ask their children to demonstrate and practice the strategies they learned in school.

Other topics in the Academy also were connected to healthy living by helping families reduce stress through fun and learning. Activities included connecting reading with arts and crafts; connecting reading with a movie; celebrating the foods of Puerto Rico; and more. Hawthorne's ATP ended the year with a safe and friendly in-person outdoor dance party for all students and families. See [2022 PPP, page 16](#).

Feature the good work that your district, organization, and/or school is doing in next month's *E-Brief*. Remember, your report does not have to be long—just a few sentences to highlight what you want to share or need us to know about a good partnership activity at school or at home. Send info for **YOUR SPACE** to: Brenda Thomas, bthomas@jhu.edu.

ON CALL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

All district, state, and organization Leaders for Partnerships received the NNPS [On Call Technical Assistance Form](#) via email. This form enables YOU to schedule the first communication this year to meet with Brenda Thomas by phone or on a virtual platform of your choosing. Ask your questions. Solve an emerging challenge. Brenda loves to talk partnerships. Select a date on your calendar to meet with her to discuss your partnership success stories, challenges, and dreams! Check the support you want in your location.

E-mail your completed form to bthomas@jhu.edu. Here is another copy for you to link with Brenda:

[Technical Assistance Form](#)



NNPS DISTRICT, ORGANIZATION, STATE
TECHNICAL SUPPORT ON-CALL MEETING
Brenda Thomas, Senior Program Facilitator
bthomas@jhu.edu (410) 516-8819, Office

DISTRICT/ ORGANIZATION / STATE: _____
KEY CONTACT: _____ Phone No.: _____

Two-way communication is important in building and sustaining effective programs of partnerships. On-call technical assistance is a benefit of membership in NNPS, so I look forward to speaking with you. I would like to talk with you quarterly, when possible. Please include a talk with me on your schedule. Send 3 dates and times that work for you, and I will synchronize your dates with my schedule and confirm one of them. After our initial meeting, we can schedule future talks.

Part of our discussion will include how well things are going in your location and how I can be of assistance to you. If you need support before I have an opportunity to speak with you, please do not hesitate to call me. That call can serve as our initial talk. Here is a quick list of some things I can assist you with, but our chats are not limited to these topics. You may add your topic(s) to the list below, and e-mail or call me so that I may assist you. Remember, I love talking partnerships!

Three (3) good available dates and times on my schedule for my initial technical assistance talk:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Support Needed ---

- ☐ Quick question -- Please call me _____
- ☐ Review my Leadership Plan with me _____
- ☐ District Level Leadership / State Level Leadership _____
- ☐ Direct facilitation of my schools' Action Teams for Partnerships (ATPs) _____
- ☐ Facilitation of districts in my state _____
- ☐ Professional development ☐ District Leaders ☐ Schools ☐ State Leaders ☐ Other _____
- ☐ Talk with my schools' Action Teams for Partnerships (ATPs) _____
- ☐ Helping my schools write good Action Plans for Partnerships _____
- ☐ E-Brief, things I would like to see included OR I have not received E-Brief _____
- ☐ Assistance in planning an End-of-Year Celebration _____
- ☐ NNPS Promising Partnership Practices _____
- ☐ NNPS Partnership Awards _____
- ☐ Scaling up the number of NNPS schools or NNPS districts _____
- ☐ UPDATE survey _____
- ☐ Evaluating our partnership work _____
- ☐ OTHER _____



Note: We can meet via telephone, or if you prefer a Zoom, Microsoft Teams, or Google Meet. If by Zoom, please send me the link for our meeting.

Do you remember this device or better still, when was the last time you used one of these?

NNPS and SOCIAL MEDIA



Districtwide Professional Development Work Sessions on School, Family, and Community Partnerships to Increase Student Success

Loree Smith, NNPS District Key Contact and Federal Programs Coordinator, Title I Family Engagement, Title II, & Title III, **Calcasieu Parish School Board in Lake Charles, Louisiana** took

advantage of the NNPS professional development services to support and strengthen schools' Action Teams for Partnership (ATPs) as they start the new school year. Loree worked with NNPS Facilitator, Brenda Thomas to conduct two days of face-to-face workshops to strengthen ATPs programs of School, Family, and Community Partnerships.

Day 1 was for new ATPs. They received an NNPS One-Day Action Team for Partnerships workshop on the NNPS model and how to apply it to their partnership work.

Attendees reported: *"I learned about the structure of our ATP team and the 6 Types of Involvement. We will revise our current One Year Action plan after taking a closer look, today."*

"Thank you for the real-world examples of how other schools utilize this information. This helped me tremendously."

Day 2 was a Refresher session for veteran ATPs in NNPS. They received the NNPS Refresher Work Session that helped them discuss and report how well they were implementing the components of the NNPS Model, and how to make their programs even stronger—more effective and more equitable.

"I learned that using the evaluation tools in chapter 9 [of the NNPS Handbook] will help me with my work in determining the use of the 6 types of involvement."

"We learned team building techniques and strategies for conducting team meetings."

"The district has always, for years, provided help if/when needed. It was a GREAT day!"

Both groups looked over their current *Action Plan for Partnerships* for 2022-23 through new lens to update and improve their plans and align their partnership activities to help them reach their own school improvement goals.

See [more photos](#) from Calcasieu's ATPs on the NNPS Facebook page.

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/partnershipschools>

Follow us on twitter 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. 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*.



RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES

A new book, *Everyone Wins* by Karen Mapp, Anne Henderson, Stephanie Cuevas, Martha Franco, and Suzanna Ewert (Scholastic Press, 2022), reports the evidence for school, family, and community partnerships. The book presents 25 “big stories” based on over 40 studies by researchers who explored many aspects of school, family, and community partnerships.

The authors summarize the themes across studies, provide clear summaries of the original, published research, and add six recommendations for applying the evidence in practice.

NNPS-ers will find that they are, indeed, leaders in using evidence-based strategies to strengthen and sustain effective and equitable partnership programs. This collection is an important resource that helps to explain why you do what you do in your partnership plans and practices. You can order this book from Scholastic Books (Teachers Store) or on Amazon.

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.



Keep up the great work. We'll check in with you again next month.

In partnership,

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

The NNPS School E-Brief is disseminated once a month during the school year. The E-Brief is intended to:

1. Offer timely information to support your efforts to build comprehensive school, family, and community partnership programs.
2. Update you on available research, tools, materials, services, and training opportunities from the National Network of Partnership Schools.
3. Provide you with a vehicle to exchange ideas with, ask questions of, and share resources with other NNPS members and the NNPS staff.

To respond to NNPS about an E-Brief, click “Reply” and you will send your email only to me, Brenda Thomas.

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