



National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS)
2023 September E-Brief for Schools in NNPS
CORRECTED E-BOOK LINK

A decorative graphic for the month of September. The word "September" is written in a large, black, cursive font. It is surrounded by stylized yellow and orange leaves and small red berries, set against a white background with a subtle pattern.

School bells are ringing. We hear parents singing:
“It’s time to go back to school!”
In school clothes or uniforms with backpacks in place,
students are looking real cool!
Teachers and school staff welcome everyone back—
so happy that all are returning.
Key partners—home, school, and community—
are ready to support all students’ learning.

Welcome back to the 2023-24 school year! This is *the* year to strengthen your program of family engagement to increase student success. Read the NNPS *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 Students’ Roles in School, Family, and Community Partnerships. This year our theme is: **Tools You Can Use**. We will remind you about a useful NNPS resource each month that district leaders and school teams use to continually improve their partnership programs. And so can YOU!

Tools You Can Use: Start the year by guiding school ATPs to explore *Starting Points*, a quick inventory of present practices—pp. 175-178 / Chapter 5 in *School, Family, and Community Partnerships: Your Handbook for Action*. Members of the ATP may quickly examine the sections on the six types of involvement (Type 1-Parenting, Type 2-Communicating, Type 3-Volunteering, Type 4-Learning at Home, Type 5-Decision Making, and Type 6-Collaborating with the Community).

- Check the engagement activities in each section that the school already conducts
- Check one engagement activity in each section the ATP wants to consider adding to the *One-Year Action Plan for Partnerships* to extend information and services to more families—including those previously “hard to reach.”

Why is this a good tool to use? *Starting Points* helps every ATP see that it already has started to strengthen the school’s partnership program in many ways. No school is starting from “ground zero.” At the same time, there is always room for improvement!

Do you have a question about *Starting Points*—an NNPS Tool You Can Use? Contact Brenda Thomas, NNPS Facilitator, bthomas@jhu.edu.

CORRECTED E-BOOK LINK

Promising Partnership Practices 2023 – New E-Book for YOU!

Promising Partnership Practices 2023 includes close to 30 great reports of successful family and community engagement activities. See four sections of examples of in-person and *Zoom-y* activities to support goals for student learning in reading/literacy and STEAM subjects, or to ensure a welcoming school climate for all families, or to strengthen leadership on partnerships. Creativity is on every page of the new book! This E-BOOK is E for Excellent!

This year, there are more color photos than ever before that show the spirit, energy, and good connections in elementary, middle, and high schools in this edition. Thanks to all members of NNPS who contributed to this colorful edition!

Follow the link from the NNPS homepage or click [Promising Partnership Practices 2023](#).

Coming Soon: The printable version for black & white or color printers!

NNPS 2023 Partnership Award Winners-- Congratulations!

Seven schools, three districts, and two organizations earned NNPS Partnership Awards this year for explaining how they go beyond having good *activities* to building strong and sustainable *programs* of family and community engagement. Almost all of the schools are in districts and organizations that have strong leaders for partnerships. NNPS data show that schools do more to engage all families if they have strong leaders who guide and support their work.

Partnership School Awards

- Brooklyn Preschool, Cuyahoga County Universal Pre-Kindergarten/Starting Point, OH
- Columbia High School, Richland County School District One, SC
- Cypress Cove Elementary School, Calcasieu Parish School Board, LA
- Edwin Markham Elementary School, Pasco School District No. 1, WA
- Hawthorne Elementary School, Seattle Public Schools, WA
- Ladson Elementary School, Charleston County School District, SC
- Mini Miracles Learning Academy, Cuyahoga County Universal Pre-Kindergarten/Starting Point, OH

Partnership District Awards

- Calcasieu Parish School Board, Lake Charles, LA
- 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 2023*. In a couple of weeks, their stories will be posted on the NNPS website.

NNPS *UPDATE* and RENEWAL

Did YOUR Program Renew NNPS Membership for 2023-24? NOT YET? Send it in NOW!

Thanks to all members of NNPS who returned the 2023 *UPDATE* to evaluate progress and renew membership in NNPS for the 2023-24 school year! Your work on parent, family, and community engagement is more important than ever!

Were you delayed? Send in *UPDATE* NOW! Click on **[NNPS UPDATE and Renewal for 2023-24](#)** 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 of benefits and services in Join NNPS at www.partnershipschools.org). Send in both *UPDATE* and renewal fee (\$400) ASAP to remain a national leader of effective and equitable programs of family and community engagement.

YOUR SPACE

We are looking forward to a year of partnership work and fun. In this section of *E-Brief*—YOUR SPACE—we will feature a creative and important activity from *Promising Partnership Practice 2023* that you may adopt or adapt. OR, you may send in a new activity to Brenda Thomas during the year (bthomas@jhu.edu). OR, send a question to NNPS and we will help you—and others—solve an emerging challenge in this section.

Comprehensive Activities Amaze. Read *Books on Parade* at Western Hills Elementary School in Little Rock School District, AR. This activity combined reading, art, music, dance, construction, and parade marching for students to share their favorite books at each grade level with each other and with parents and the community. Did you know you can read a book *and* sing, dance, and march about its message and meaning? Parent volunteers play important parts along with reading, library, art, music, and PE teachers. Read more about it at *Promising Partnership Practices 2023*, pages 2-3.

NNPS and SOCIAL MEDIA

Here is a YouTube video of one of the Books on Parade—an activity featured (above) in Your Space. Take a look at the fun of turning students' favorite books at each grade level into a multi-media-extravaganza for school, family, and community celebration of reading. Click: [Books on Parade on YouTube](#). 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 Brenda Thomas at nnps@jhu.edu. We will select some to add to NNPS's Facebook page.

NNPS Members-Only Access Code

The **MEMBERS-ONLY CODE** gives special benefits to active members of NNPS. The **Members-Only Access Code** is **NNPS23mem**. On the website, www.partnershipschoools.org, you can use the Code to explore many years' books of *Promising Partnership Practices* and all *18 NNPS Samplers* of goal-linked partnership activities in the section Success Stories. We will remind you of the code in every month's *E-Brief*.

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

This month's Information and Resources reminds you to get to know two key NNPS resources at the start of the school year. These will be useful to you all year!

- **NNPS Website** – www.partnershipschoools.org – Visit the website for program guidelines, research results, and best practices from NNPS members. The “News” section on the front page provides links to upcoming events and important topics. Explore the various sections listed on the top task bar to find information and examples that will help you improve your partnership program.
 - **School, Family, and Community Partnerships: Your Handbook for Action, 4th edition.** Everyone is encouraged to open and read (!) the *Handbook*—your roadmap to partnership success for all school ATPs and all district, organization, and state leaders! The CD in the back cover includes all forms and activities for strong partnership work in English and Spanish. If you do not have a CD drive on your computer--Fear Not! Go to Online Resources: www.resources.corwin.com/PartnershipsHandbook. Look for the little blue square on the pages of the *Handbook* to find this link for all available documents in English and Spanish.
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SUPPORT NNPS

If you make tax-deductible donations to non-profit organizations in 2023, please consider NNPS. Your donation supports NNPS's unique projects—annual book of *Promising Partnership Practices*, *Partnership Awards*, monthly *E-Briefs*, annual *UPDATE* evaluations, data collection, analyses, and reports; and our excellent website. Here's how: Click the Donate link.

[DONATE!](#)

**Scroll to Research Centers. Click on GIVE NOW.
See box “Select Your Gift Designation.”
Click “OTHER” and write in: **National Network of Partnership Schools.****

NNPS appreciates your tax-deductible donation. You will receive an official acknowledgement of your donation for tax purposes. Thank you!



**Welcome back, everyone!
We look forward to a very
productive-partnership
year.**

**In partnership,
Brenda, Steve, 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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