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National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS)

2020 December E-Brief for Schools in NNPS

***Students are studying—but they're glad it's December.
Families say 2020 was a year to remember.
Teachers are teaching students—some far and some near.
All partners rejoice the end of this challenging year.***

The 20-21 school year will bring exciting new partnerships to all sites in NNPS, even in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic! We are happy to continue monthly NNPS *E-Briefs* for school members and for districts, organizations, and states. Each month's *E-Brief* includes timely information to support leadership for partnerships and schools' programs of family and community engagement.

Save the Date!

Free NNPS Webinar for Schools' Action Teams for Partnerships

NNPS will conduct its annual **Free Webinar** for schools' Action Teams for Partnerships (ATPs) on **Thursday, February 18, 2021 from 2:00-3:30 EST**. This webinar will address NNPS Basics for ATPs. Topics include ten steps to partnership success, strengthening the Action Team for Partnerships (ATP), and how to write a goal-linked action plan for the 21-22 school year. We encourage as many members of your ATP to participate together in this webinar.

To register, contact Rachel Chappell at nnps@jhu.edu. Give your name, affiliation, e-mail address, and the words **Register for Free NNPS School ATP Webinar**. The webinar is a benefit of membership.



This year, this section of E-Brief invites members of NNPS to share how school Action Teams for Partnerships (ATPs), co-chairs of ATPs, or district or organization leaders are continuing to implement plans for family and community engagement activities during COVID-19. Your schools may be open for face-to-face classes, remote learning, and/or on a hybrid schedule. Send your good ideas and we will share them in E-Brief!

This month we heard from **Darlane LyJoi Mull, NNPS Key Contact at Pinnacle View Middle School in Little Rock, Arkansas** who had a great idea. She asked her **District Leader for Partnership, Kaye Rainey**, for her suggestions for implementation during COVID-19 requirements for remote learning.

The ATP plans an activity to help parents and students understand and master steps toward academic success and regular daily school attendance. The middle school aims to provide feasible strategies for parents to motivate their children's learning and completion of schoolwork during the pandemic. Recognizing that schools across the country have the same challenges, Ms. Mull and Ms. Rainey discussed the following information and suggestions for starters.

- Survey parents online to learn what their needs are.
- Conduct a short (15-30 minutes) weekly Zoom "Fireside Chat" for parents and students with the Principal to discuss successes, questions, and concerns.
- Conduct periodic one-on-one Teacher-Student-Parent Zoom sessions to check in with each family about individual progress and challenges.
- Review the NNPS *Handbook for Action* and *Promising Partnership Practices* for specific ideas to improve and recognize good attendance.
- E-mail questions to Brenda Thomas (NNPS) at bthomas@jhu.edu. She will be happy to assist you and share ideas from other NNPS middle schools.

Is your school (or schools you guide) working during COVID-19 to help parents guide their children to attend school regularly and remain motivated to learn and complete assignments? **E-mail your suggestions to Brenda to share in the next edition of E-Brief.**

NNPS and SOCIAL MEDIA

The Ohio Statewide Family Engagement Center (OhSFEC) December newsletter includes a helpful section on engaging grandparents in their children's education. Many children are being raised by their grandparents, who have questions about the schools, grade level requirements, and how to guide their grandchildren to succeed as students. Click here to explore the OhSFEC [GrandUnderstanding Resource Hub](#) useful tools and resources for Grandfamilies.

You may have photos from Zoom, social distancing, and other partnership activities to share with members of NNPS. Did one of your schools conduct a Virtual Mask Fashion Show with students and families or another creative activity? Send your *must see* Surviving COVID-19 photos to Rachel Chappell, nnps@jhu.edu! We are a strong network and will continue to work together to get through this pandemic. That's what TEAMS do!

OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES

5 Radical Schooling Ideas for An Uncertain Fall and Beyond

There is no one answer for what the 20-21 school year will look like. If classrooms are open for face-to-face learning, there will likely be some form of [social distancing and other hygiene measures](#) in place that challenge traditional teaching and learning. Future outbreaks will make for unpredictable waves of closures. Virtual learning will continue. See some strategies at: [5 Radical Schooling Ideas For An Uncertain Fall And Beyond](#)

Activities for kids during COVID-19: CHOC Children's Blog

During the COVID-19 pandemic, children are spending more time at home than usual. CHOC (Children's Hospital of Orange County, linked to the University of California-Irvine), posted a podcast with many good ideas for parents and caregivers to keep all kids (including healthy children) occupied in activities that combine fun and learning. See Parenting TIPS (that NNPS members may share with families) at: [Parenting Tips](#).

Thanks for Returning the 2020 UPDATE

The 2020 NNPS UPDATE guides members to evaluate progress of their partnership programs and renew membership for the 20-21 school year. THANK YOU for taking time to assess your program's progress and for making plans to improve partnerships over this school year!

The work you do is so important that NNPS pays a matching fee for every site that renewed membership. Our research team will analyze the data and share Annual Reports later in the school year.

Remember, we are here to help you with your work. If your program renewed membership, you will continue to receive the monthly *E-Briefs*, on-going services, resources, and support through the 20-21 school year.

NNPS Members-Only Access Code

The MEMBERS ONLY section of the NNPS website provides active members with special benefits. Use your **Members-Only Access Code: mem20NNPS** 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 2021** for members who sent in 2020 UPDATE and renewed membership for the

20-21 school year. Look for the new code next month. We will keep you posted in each E-Brief of the code to use.

DONATE TO NNPS

Tis the season for giving! If you plan to make an end-of-year tax-deductible donation to non-profit organizations in 2020, please consider NNPS. Your donation supports NNPS's unique projects—books of *Promising Partnership Practices*, *Partnership Awards*, monthly *E-Briefs*, Annual Evaluations, and our excellent website. Here's how: 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. Thank you!

Wishing YOU the MOST MERRY and HAPPIEST holiday!



**In Partnership,
The NNPS Team
Brenda, Rachel, Steve, and Joyce**

