



National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS) 2020 November E-Brief for Districts, States, and Organizations

Students are learning in class and online.
Parents are making sure their children are fine.
Teachers are teaching under COVID conditions.
ALL partners have earned a break for Thanksgiving traditions.

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.

2020 Partnership Award Winners Now on NNPS Website

The 2020 NNPS Partnership Award winners are online. Visit www.partnershipschools.org and click Success Stories-NNPS Partnership Awards to read summaries of good work and inspiring stories. This year, 8 schools, 1 district, and 3 organizations earned NNPS Partnership Awards for excellence and progress on research-based programs of family and community engagement. These programs are recognized for going beyond a good "activity" to systematically building research-based programs of family and community engagement.

NNPS 2020 Partnership School Awards honor: Delmae Heights Elementary School, Florence School District One, SC; Hawthorne Elementary School, Seattle Public Schools, WA; James McGee Elementary School, Pasco School District, WA; Orchard Elementary School, Richland County District One, SC; Stephens Elementary School, Little Rock School District, AR; and three preschools that are part of Cuyahoga County Universal PreK/Starting Point, Cleveland, OH—St. Peter's, The Music Settlement, and Tremont Montessori.

NNPS 2020 Partnership District and Organization Awards honor:
Little Rock School District, Arkansas; Cuyahoga County Universal
PreKindergarten (UPK)/Starting Point, Cleveland, OH; Francis Marion
University-Center of Excellence, Florence, SC; and Partnership Schools Ireland,
Dublin, Ireland.

REMINDER: Last Call—deadline for the 2020 UPDATE – December 4th

Most NNPS members submitted their 2020 UPDATES to evaluate progress of their partnership program and renew membership for the 20-21 school year.
THANK YOU!

UPDATE helps you recognize the importance of evaluating progress each year and gives information for improving the next One-Year Action Plan for Partnerships. This is so important that NNPS pays a matching fee for every member who renews membership. We are here to help you with your work.

If you received a “Last Call” memo, please send in your UPDATE by December 4 to continue monthly E-Briefs and all member benefits and services through the 20-21 school year.

At this critical time for good partnerships, do not be "cut" from on-going services, resources, and support!

Save the Dates!

Free NNPS Webinar for District, Organization, and State Leaders for Partnerships

NNPS will conduct its annual **Free Webinar** for District Leaders on **Thursday, January 21, 2021** from 2:00-3:30 EST. This session is designed for new district or organization leaders in NNPS or anyone who wants a “refresher” on the roles and responsibilities of leaders for partnerships. The webinar will discuss leaders’ responsibilities to guide and facilitate school-based Action Teams for Partnerships, best practices, and solutions to common challenges. To register, contact Rachel Chappell at nnps@jhu.edu. Give your name, affiliation, e-mail address, and the words **Register for Free NNPS Leadership Webinar**. The webinar is a benefit of membership.

Free 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 school 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.

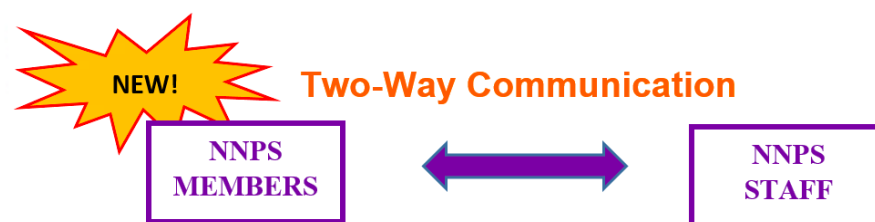
Recap: NNPS Online Leadership Institute on School, Family, and Community Partnerships

NNPS held its first All-Online Leadership Institute via the Zoom platform. Over 120 leaders of partnerships attended from eleven states across the country, and from Australia and Ireland. Leaders learned how to conduct the NNPS One-Day Team Training Workshop with their own schools' Action Teams for Partnerships; how to effectively facilitate school teams; and how to organize effective leadership activities and goal-linked programs to increase student achievement, behavior, and equitable family and community engagement.

NNPS created a passcode-protected section of the website for attendees to complete their "homework" from the Leadership Institute to obtain their letters for hours of professional development on family and community engagement. If attendees forgot the password, contact Rachel Chappell, NNPS Coordinator, at nnps@jhu.edu.

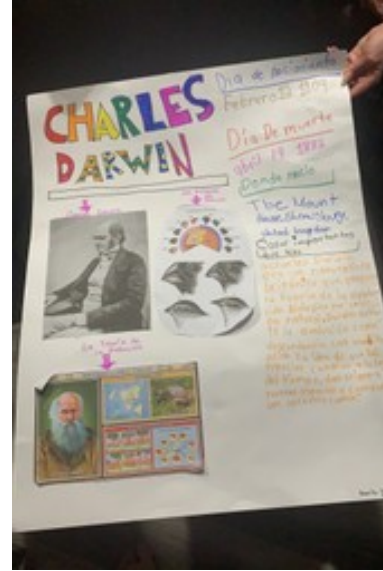
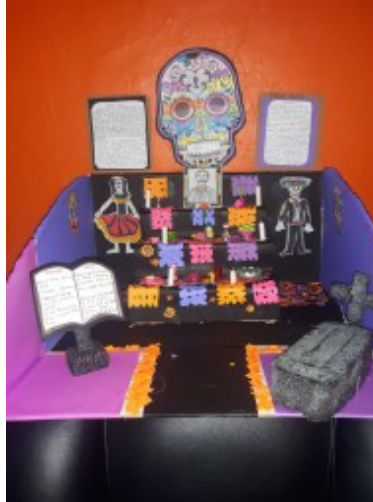
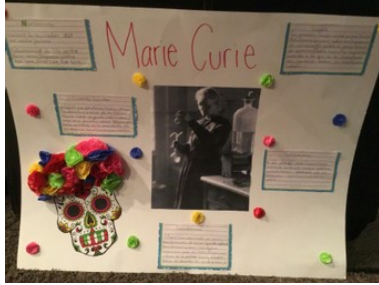
NNPS will conduct the next Online Leadership Institute March 18, 19 and 26. See brochure and register to attend at: [NNPS Online Leadership Institute-MARCH 2021](#)

In the meantime, if you need assistance or resources to strengthen your program of family and community engagement or to discuss next steps, contact Brenda (bthomas@jhu.edu) to plan immediate steps for success in your location.



NNPS guides leaders at all levels to encourage 2-way communications for strong programs of school, family, and community partnerships. This year, this section of E-Brief invites members of NNPS to share how your schools' Action Teams for Partnerships (ATPs), co-chairs of ATPs, or district or organization leaders are continuing to implement your 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 **Esmeralda Magaña-Valencia**, NNPS Key Contact and **Kim Lovelace**, School Nurse at **Marie Curie STEM Elementary School in Pasco School District One, Pasco, Washington**. They reported three recent engagement activities to build student skills and to have some family fun.



This school celebrated *Day of the Dead Scientist (Dia de los Cientificos Muertos)* during the first week in November. This year, this traditional day was celebrated COVID-19 style. Students participated from home by making an altar, display, poster, or power point presentation honoring a family member or scientist. They submitted photos of their projects online or dropped posters off at school. All projects were shown as videos on ClassDojo for the entire school community to enjoy.

The school also introduced two new *Loteria* nights via Zoom (much like BINGO). Students and families received *Loteria* cards in the mail and played online. By the second night, over 100 students and families joined in to play. Winners received baskets with games and popcorn to encourage family game nights. *Loteria* nights were such fun that students, parents, and teachers suggested the school continue monthly family and community game nights.

The school celebrated the 153rd birthday of Marie Curie. Students and families picked up a sugar cookie and frosting packet to decorate and enjoy at home.! Let us hear from you about effective partnership strategies and tips that are helping your program during the COVID-19 crisis. Send to Brenda at bthomas@jhu.edu.

PROMISING PARTNERSHIP PRACTICES 2020: Inspiring Activities

Be sure to check the NNPS e-Book, *Promising Partnership Practices 2020*, for ideas to help improve school, family, and community partnerships during the COVID-19 crisis. See the easy link on the homepage at www.partnershipschoools.org. Or click [Promising Partnership Practices 2020](#).

Your program can adopt or adapt activities to match the goals of your partnership program, and to fit COVID-19 health and safety protocols. If you conduct a good activity to meet COVID-19 conditions, let NNPS share it with members nationwide. Or, contact Brenda at NNPS (bthomas@jhu.edu) to discuss ideas to improve family and community engagement during the COVID-19 crisis.

NOTE: Prior books of *Promising Partnership Practices* from 2008 to 2019

are available to members on the NNPS website in the section Success Stories. Over 700 goal-linked activities have been reported to engage parents and community partners in ways that contribute to students' academic and behavioral success in school. Use your **Members-Only Access Code, mem20NNPS** for access to all of these ideas.

Also—ALL 18 goal-linked NNPS **Samplers** are in the same section of the website for members to explore using the **Members-Only Code**.

VIRTUAL TRAVEL: Family Engagement and COVID-19 in Israel

Dr. Joyce Epstein, Director, NNPS took a virtual trip to Israel this month to talk with Dr. Asnat Dor, professor and researcher in school counseling and health system management, and her students at Emek Yezreel Academic College. They are studying the challenges and possibilities of family and community engagement during the COVID-19 school closures. You can hear Joyce share many NNPS engagement activities and approaches to sustain strong partnerships at [NNPS and COVID-19--Conversation with Dr. Dor \(Israel\) and Dr. Epstein](#).

NNPS and SOCIAL MEDIA

Educating, Engaging, and Empowering Parents. Institutionalized Equity, LLC recognizes that all parents have important roles to play in their child's education from birth through high school—fully supported by school and district policies and practice. The organization's website, www.EngageParentsInEducation.com, outlines its plan for a national model and standards for orientations, conferences, evaluations, and guidance to build a true educational partnership of students, parents, and teachers so that all children can reach their highest potential in school and beyond. The organization includes information on NNPS research-based approaches that enable districts and schools to attain these goals. See: <https://engageparentsineducation.com/research>.

NNPS will share photos from your exciting partnership activities on our Facebook page. Send your *must see* Surviving COVID-19 pictures to Rachel, nnps@jhu.edu! We are a strong network and will continue to work together to get through this pandemic.

OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has a wealth of COVID-19 information for schools and others on their website. Check it out: [CDC and COVID-19](#)

SchoolSafety.gov. SchoolSafety.gov provides schools and districts with ideas for student health and safety. Topics related to COVID-19 safety for schools, including recommendations for physical spacing and testing, cybersecurity, and other topics can be found here: [COVID-19 Resources for Schools](#).

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 renewed membership for the 20-21 school year. We will keep you posted in each E-Brief of the code to use.

DONATE TO NNPS

If you make end-of-year tax-deductible donations 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!



**In Partnership,
*The NNPS Team***

Brenda, Rachel, Steve, and Joyce

