

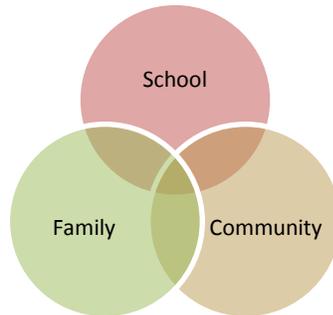
September 27, 2016

Dear Fellow Parents:

Last Spring, the **Parent Advisory Council for Student Services (PACSS)** was formed to collaborate with the District Administration and Staff on how to provide support as well as social and educational opportunities for families served by Student Services.

The purpose of the committee is to provide parents a way to positively engage in their children's educational process and the work that is being done on their behalf in school. Ultimately, the committee's mission is to improve students' outcomes and goals, whether they are academic or social-emotional in nature, and to provide social opportunities for networking within our community and among the students.

This concept is represented in the simple diagram below. The more overlapping the three spheres of influence, the better the outcomes for students.



***The Parent Advisory Council for Student Services seeks to create opportunities for each of us to best align the work done at home, in school and in the community on behalf of our children.***

Our work is grounded in the concept that all students' outcomes are improved when there is alignment between the three spheres of influence in a child's life: family, school and community. ("School, Family, and Community Partnerships: Your Handbook for Action" (2nd edition), Joyce L. Epstein, M.G. Sanders, B.S. Simon, K.C. Salinas, N.R. Jansorn, and F.L. Voorhis, Corwin, Thousand Oaks, CA, 2002.)

This summer we sent out a survey asking about certain types of activities. We had a remarkably strong response to the survey indicating a high level of interest in us getting together as parents, as families, in educational workshops and also in receiving educational information via email.

In response to the survey, we scheduled two events:

- **Parent** Get-Together on Thursday, October 6
- **Family** Get-Together on Wednesday, November 30

Throughout the year we are looking to have workshops or speakers on a variety of topics that best meet the needs and interests of our families. We hope to meet you at one of these events. If you are unable to make it and would like to provide us additional ideas on what would be helpful to you, please feel free to contact the Committee representative listed below from your school.

#### **Parent Advisory Council for Student Services (PACSS)**

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