

LORTON STATION SCHOOL/HOME PARTNERSHIP

MISSION STATEMENT

The Lorton Station School Home Partnership is established as an independent corporation to

- a) Develop a closer connection between school and home by encouraging parent involvement,
- b) Enhance the educational experience by supporting academic and enrichment activities, and
- c) Improve the environment at Lorton Station Elementary by providing volunteer and financial support.

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STRATEGIC PLAN

The mission of the Lorton Station School/Home Partnership (LS-SHP) is to promote the partnership between parents, teachers and the school community at large in supporting the mission of Lorton Station Elementary (LSES). We envision a healthy, caring, and encouraging educational environment for all students of LSES.

The LS-SHP carries out this mission through three basic program areas: “Home Room,” “Roadrunner Resources,” and “Raise Your Hand!” Each of these program areas is tied directly to the mission of the LS-SHP.

The “Home Room” program stresses a greater connection between school and home. The program promotes activities developed by parent-teacher partnerships for families to engage in at home and at school. These activities are viewed as “non-volunteer” as they are activities that don’t require “work” but rather stress fun, involvement, and learning.

The aim of “Roadrunner Resources” is to enhance the educational experience for students by supporting and supplementing the needs of teachers to promote academic and enrichment activities.

“Raise Your Hand!” promotes parent volunteerism.

The LS-SHP is a completely volunteer-driven organization. The organization is directed by an executive committee composed of a president, two vice presidents, secretary, and treasurer. Specifics about the executive committee can be found in the organizational bylaws.

The stakeholders are LSES students, parents, teachers, school administrators and staff, volunteers, and the school community at large.

This strategic plan will outline the goals, objectives, activities, resources, products, and outcomes of the LS-SHP as a whole within the organizational framework developed by the LS-SHP executive committee.

Goal 1: Promote closer connections between school and home by fostering parent involvement via the Home Room program.

Objectives

- To increase parent attendance at school non-volunteer functions such as “Back to School Night,” “Thanksgiving Lunch,” the “Health and Safety Fair” and “Math Night” by 30 percent over the next two years.
- To ease and increase communication between parents and teachers
- To establish one grade level family night per grade during the year
- To begin an at-home “Play School” program

Activities

- Ensure that calendar dates for planned LS-SHP functions are set by the Back to School Nights in the first year, and before the first day of classes in fall going forward.
- Make all parents and guardians members of the LS-SHP with no dues.
- Obtain parent/guardian contact information (for all parents/guardians who have not opted out of directory info) from school and download to LS-SHP database.
- Enhance the current Lightning Tracks paper newsletter to include regular articles from school administration, teachers at each grade level, counselors and/or the parent liaison, and the executive committee of the LS-SHP.
- Communicate to parents via an email newsletter every month, in between the printing of Lightning Tracks, unless weekly “Lightning Flash” is successfully implemented. Otherwise, communicate LS-SHP news to “Lightning Flash” editor on a regular basis as needed.
- Require each classroom teacher to have a room parent.
- Establish a grade level advisory committee of the LS-SHP to include one representative parent from each grade level to facilitate communications by grade level. The grade level representatives will be the primary liaison between the grade level team lead teachers and the LS-SHP.
- Develop a LS-SHP website to include LS-SHP activities and parenting resources.
- Develop, define, and support a “Play School” program that allows students to “teach” parents the lessons they learn in school on a daily basis.
- Establish a monthly “Principal’s coffee” for parents to meet informally with the Principal to better understand the challenges faced by the school and the parents in involving parents in academics and school activities.
- Offer “fun” incentives to families who participate in non-volunteer activities.

Goal 2: Enhance the educational experience for students by supporting and supplementing the needs of teachers, by promoting academic and enrichment activities, and health and safety related activities.

Objectives

- To provide funding for field trips and cultural arts opportunities.
- To supplement funding for teachers and LSES in areas not supported by the FCPS budget.
- To develop and support academic enrichment clubs and competitive academic teams for students.
- To provide families with information and services related to the health and safety of children.

Activities

- Develop a fundraising strategy to raise a minimum of \$20,000/year with a goal of spending 50% on field trips and cultural arts opportunities.
- Make all teachers and staff members at LSES members of the LS-SHP at no charge.
- Communicate LS-SHP news to teachers via the weekly “All Aboard” publication.
- Establish a regular bimonthly roundtable for the Advanced Academic Program, comprised of parents from each grade level and school administration, to address needs specific to that program, including marketing of the program to prospective students each spring. There would be one LS-SHP position as parent liaison between the group and the LS-SHP.
- Research and implement enrichment clubs such as chess club, science club, Odyssey of the Mind, Challenge 24 club. Such clubs/clinics should be self-supporting and not treated as fundraising opportunities for the LS-SHP.
- Establish grade level parent representatives to meet with grade level teacher team leads on at least a quarterly basis to better understand the needs of the classroom teachers.
- Support the school’s fall Book Fair (which raises money for the school library) by providing parent volunteers, and coordinate a spring Book Fair to provide books directly to students and to classroom libraries.
- Establish a staff/teacher appreciation committee to enhance staff morale.
- Obtain tax exempt status to encourage tax deductible donations to the LS-SHP by parents and local businesses.
- Encourage parents to eat lunch at school with their children at least once during the year.
- Provide basic lunches (has been peanut butter sandwiches—re-evaluate) on a limited basis to students who run out of lunch money.
- Hold a health and safety fair during the year, with the help of local community resources.

- Investigate ways for fresh produce grown at school to be used in classroom or lunch activities.
- Provide education to parents related to healthy lunch options and the benefits of school provided lunches and breakfasts.
- Provide opportunities for children to enroll in low cost before or after school classes involving physical activity.
- Provide information or opportunities for school families and staff to easily receive low cost flu vaccinations each fall.

Goal 3: Promote and increase parent volunteerism and involvement.

Objectives

- To increase the number of volunteer hours by 20 percent over the next three years.
- To increase attendance at LS-SHP sponsored family events, such as Family Movie Night, by 50% over the next two years.

Activities

- Request a visit from the FCPS Family and School Partnership office to evaluate the welcoming atmosphere at the school and help create a family friendly school atmosphere.
- Implement the “Two Hour Power” volunteer program.
- Hold Station Celebration during September?
- Investigate and evaluate ways to better promote and run Family Movie Nights, to include concurrent showings for different age levels or more theme based promotion.
- Investigate other “just plain fun” low cost activities that involve parents, teachers, and kids, such as game nights.
- Research and obtain “fun” incentives (door prizes) for regular LS-SHP meetings.
- Provide and advertise childcare for regular LS-SHP meetings.
- Re-evaluate the WatchDOGS program for expansion to include non-Kiss and Ride opportunities.
- Establish a hospitality committee to ensure that parents new to the school are made aware of the existence and services of the LS-SHP.
- Schedule a school forum at the end of each year to discuss and assess LS-SHP effectiveness and to brainstorm ways to continue creating greater involvement.