

Firebird Families

Secrest Elementary School

Description/Summary

Firebird Families was conceived through a collaborative approach between staff, administration, and families. Parent capacity was maximized by allowing them to truly lead this process. Through that collaboration, we determined that families wanted more ways to help and connect with the school beyond the physical building and traditional times. This program allowed our Firebird Families to network with and assist other families from the comfort of their own homes. Through a monthly Pastries with the Principal event, those families were educated on school policies and procedures, including workshops on homework help and deeper understanding of subject curriculums.

By lifting families up and empowering them to speak for themselves, to organically foster the growth of community, to advocate on their children's behalf, and to become familiar with policies, procedures, and curriculum, it is our hope that Firebird Families will become an integral component in ensuring that the Secrest community is a welcoming, supportive, and inclusive environment. Parent engagement is not a philosophy, but a continuing praxis. We hope to truly become a collaborative community.

Key Elements

- **Classroom Network of Parents**
 - **“Virtual” Representation**
 - **Monthly Meetings**
 - **Shared Leadership**
 - **Community Collaboration**



We are ONE – We are Title I

Family School Partnership Representatives:
Lucy Coronado and Tracy Tjapkes
Family Engagement Liaison: Jason Roberts
Principal: Franziska Zenhausern



Family School Partnerships

Jefferson County Title I Family-School Partnership group is made up of family representatives from each Title I school, Title I Family Engagement Liaisons, and Title I department staff. We meet six times throughout the school year at the District Education Center in the Boardroom. To remove barriers for families, Title I provides food and child enrichment programs at each meeting.

This year, FSP families gained knowledge of the 6 National Standards for Family School Partnerships and then looked within their own school communities to identify and highlight a promising practice and worked link it to student success.

Link to Student Outcomes

- **At-Home Parental Support**
 - **Relationships Between Parents/School**
- **Greater Student Accountability**