Dana Elementary School
690 Ridge Road, Hendersonville, NC 28792
Office: (828) 685-7743 • Fax: (828) 685-4004

Parent Engagement Policy

Dana Elementary 2026-2027

Vision

Our Vision is to know our worth and use our gifts to create positive change.

Academic Vision: Every student reads, writes, thinks, and speaks in every core class, everyday.

Mission Statement

Our Mission is to work together to be and achieve our best. I value myself. I value others. I am a Wildcat. Roar!!!

How Do We Include Parents at Dana Elementary?

At Dana Elementary, we understand the best way for a child to be successful is for us to partner with parents and community members to provide the support a child needs. We actively work with parents in a variety of ways.

First, we provide multiple ways for parents and teachers to communicate on a regular basis. All teachers have email addresses, which are linked on our school website under the staff directory. Parents and teachers also have two-way communication by using agenda books and communication folders as well as through the Parent Portal. Our teachers use ClassDojo, a schoolwide communication app, to inform parents about important information in regards to school. In addition, we use Infinite Campus Messenger 2.0, an automated calling, email, and text service, to remind parents about upcoming school events as well as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. A Parent Newsletter, The Wildcat Weekly, is sent out every week that includes a calendar of upcoming events, information about testing, PTO updates, school initiatives, and more. Conferences are scheduled as needed (mandatory first quarter) and for students who need additional interventions. Teachers will conference and work with parents on the

Tier process for students who continue to exhibit below grade level standards. We recognize that without effective communication about student progress, we are not doing our best to serve each child.

Second, we focus on academics each day in every classroom. Teachers use data from state and local assessments as well as from pre/post tests to measure student progress. mClass diagnostics in reading and iReady diagnostics in math, as well as monthly growth monitoring, are used to evaluate student progress. This data is charted and will become a part of each child's student academic notebook to demonstrate growth in various subject areas. Our teachers communicate academic expectations with parents and we offer parent nights or student led conferences throughout the year to reinforce the academic skills. Our Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) helps promote events and provides supplies and materials for our school. We recognize students exhibiting leadership skills and growth through monthly assemblies and other classroom reward systems.

Third, our goal is for parents, teachers, and students to have a clear understanding of the behavior expectations for all students. The "PAWS" criteria of expectations and classroom created mission statements are used to give students more ownership with their behavior and classroom expectations. The Student Code of Conduct was embedded in the Wildcat Weekly Parent Newsletter and is included each week. We send home a student handbook at the start of each year with basic school guidelines and Dana Elementary expectations are printed in their agenda books. At the district level, an app has been implemented where parents, students, or community members, can report bullying at any time and a report comes directly to the school administrators. In building a strong culture, our hope is to create an atmosphere where students want to become leaders and correct their own behavior before an intervention is needed. For students who have social and emotional needs outside the classroom, we partner with community organizations to meet these needs on a regular basis. To support school pride and a sense of belonging, we have a Dana mission statement, school cheer and school song that are recited daily, and on Wednesdays, we celebrate Wildcat Wednesday and wear our school color proudly.

Lastly, we strongly encourage parent involvement in our school in a number of ways. We love for parents to volunteer in the classroom to help us provide individual and small

group intervention or acceleration for students. Our PTO has been newly organized and is an essential part of our school. They meet monthly and coordinate various activities for our school.

Parent Involvement Events for 2026-27

July:
23 - School Improvement/Lighthouse Team (SI/LT) Meeting
August:
5 - Purple on the Playground (Kindergarten)
10 - Meet the Teacher
September:
2 - SI/LT Meeting
3 - Parent Information Night and Title I Night
10 - Superintendent's Parent Advisory Council (SPAC) Meeting
14 - PTO Meeting
21-24 - Fall Book Fair
October:
5 - PTO Meeting
7 - SI/LT Meeting
8 - SPAC Meeting
15 - Parent/Teacher Conference Night
16 - Family Fall Festival
20 - Parent/Teacher Conference Night
23 - Dana Fire Safety Day
26-30 - Spirit Week
November:
2 - PTO Meeting
4 -SI/LT Meeting
19 - Thanksgiving Lunch and Learn; SPAC Meeting
December:
2 - SI/LT Meeting
7 - PTO Meeting
10 - SPAC Meeting
18 - Christmas Extravaganza

Where the Wildcats Are

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January:
4 - PTO Meeting
6 - SI/LT Meeting
21 - SPAC Meeting
February:
1 - PTO Meeting
3 - SI/LT Meeting
12 - We Love Math Parent Learning Event
18 - SPAC Meeting
March:
1-5 - Read Across America Week; Spirit Week
1 - PTO Meeting
3 - SI/LT Meeting; Battle of the Books Competition at BRCC
4 - Kindergarten Rally
April:
5 - PTO Meeting
7 - SI/LT Meeting
8 - SPAC Meeting
17 - Robotics Competition at NHHS
19-22 - Spring Book Fair
30 - Senior Walkthroughs
May:
3 - PTO Meeting
5 - SI/LT Meeting
14 - Field Day
20 - Kindergarten Graduation and 5th Grade Graduation

Please be aware that these dates are subject to change.