

## LAKE BRADDOCK SECONDARY SCHOOL PARENT/FAMILY INVOLVEMENT POLICY

Lake Braddock Secondary School recognizes that:

- parents are children's first teachers and vital partners in our goal of ensuring that every student succeeds in school;
- a child's education is a responsibility shared by the school and the family during the entire time a child attends school;
- extensive research shows that engaging parents in the education process is essential to academic success;
- school/family partnerships support the learning process by reinforcing the efforts of teachers; and
- although parents in the school's community are diverse in culture, language, religion, socioeconomic status, and individual needs, they share the school's commitment to the educational success of their children.

Therefore, Lake Braddock Secondary School is committed to fostering and supporting active parent involvement so that schools and parents work together as knowledgeable partners in educating children. It is further committed to eliminating barriers that impede family involvement and to maintaining an environment supportive of comprehensive family involvement programs that have been developed in collaboration with parents.

To this end, Lake Braddock Secondary School supports the development, implementation, and regular evaluation of parent involvement programs and practices that include parents at all grade levels in a variety of roles. Parent involvement programs will be comprehensive, coordinated in nature, and will reflect the specific needs of Lake Braddock Secondary School students and their families. They will include, but not be limited to, components of successful parent involvement programs based on the following six National Standards for Parent Involvement Programs endorsed by the National PTA:

- *Standard I: Communicating*—communication between home and school is regular, two-way and meaningful;
- *Standard II: Parenting*—responsible parenting is powerfully important, encouraged, promoted and supported;
- *Standard III: Student Learning*—parents play an essential, integral role in assisting student learning;
- *Standard IV: Volunteering*—parents are welcome in the school, and their support and assistance are actively sought;

- *Standard V: School Decision Making and Advocacy*—parents are full partners in decisions that affect students and their families;
- *Standard VI: Collaborating with Community*—community resources are used to strengthen school programs, family practices, and student learning.

Furthermore, Lake Braddock Secondary School supports professional development opportunities for staff members to enhance understanding of effective parent involvement strategies. It also recognizes the importance of administrative leadership in setting expectations and creating a climate conducive to parental participation among all families of Lake Braddock Secondary School students.

Lake Braddock Secondary School strongly supports the implementation of this Parent/Family Involvement Policy, which has been designed and developed with input from parents, administration, and teachers representing both the high school and the middle school, a community member, and a high school student. This Policy will be used to improve and/or create practices to enhance parent involvement, which will be reviewed and revised (along with this Policy) every three years by a committee consisting of, at a minimum, the principal, one teacher representing the high school, one teacher representing the middle school, a student, five parents who are a representative sampling of the culturally diverse student population, and a community representative. This Policy will be accessible to staff, students, and parents by an electronic link prominently displayed on the school's website.

Adopted this 9<sup>th</sup> day of March 2005.