



# Families First: The Great First Eight Curriculum Family Engagement Approach K – 2

In Great First Eight, we recognize that families are children’s first and most enduring teachers. We help teachers learn from families. We provide opportunities for families to learn from one another. And we share with families ways they can support children’s curriculum-related learning at home.

**In Great First Eight K – 2 classrooms, teachers have daily opportunities to learn from and with families, including through:**

- ✓ Talking at pick-up and drop-off (if applicable)
- ✓ Text messages
- ✓ Phone calls
- ✓ Video messages
- ✓ Seesaw (a digital platform for sharing children’s work)
- ✓ Our family folder
- ✓ School/ community events, including project celebrations
- ✓ Conferences
- ✓ Feedback on children’s work
- ✓ Opportunities to volunteer

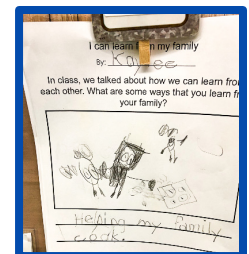
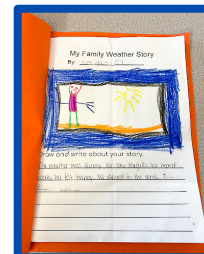
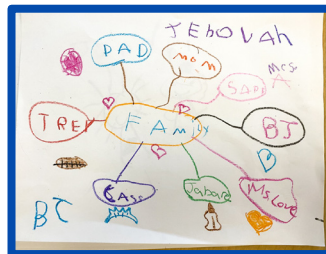
## Our family engagement approach also includes:

**Family curriculum and unit introductions:** We share with families about Great First Eight and each curriculum unit

**Family journal:** Weekly opportunities for families to write, draw, video- or audio-record responses to prompts related to the in-class project-based unit

**Family studios:** Get-togethers in which families learn from one another and the teacher about ways to support children’s learning through everyday activities at home.

**Great First Eight’s approach goes beyond traditional “parent involvement”:**



- We include many family members, not just parents
- Educators learn from and with families to support children at home and at school
- The goals and cultures of families and the community are honored