



# **What is the Buddy Family Program?**

The Buddy Family Program is an initiative led by the School Improvement Council (SIC), an advisory council to the principal and school on issues related to school improvement, to help new families acclimate to the Sterling Elementary/CTC school community. The program connects new families with a host "Buddy Family" to answer questions and provide guidance throughout the school year.

## Who Can Be a Buddy Family?

A Buddy Family is any Sterling Elementary/CTC family enrolled in the 2024-2025 school year who is willing to support a new, incoming family (Pre-K-8) by answering questions and providing guidance throughout the school year.

# **How Does the Buddy Family Program Work?**

Participating Sterling families will be paired with one new family. We ask that Buddy Families reach out to their assigned new family within the first two weeks of being paired and arrange to meet in person at least once, either at a school-sponsored event or on their own. Beyond the initial meeting, Buddy Families are encouraged to keep their paired new family informed about important school dates and events. Buddy families will have occasional "Check-Ins" with the School Improvement Council (SIC) for updates, feedback, and sharing of ideas to further enhance the program.

### What is Special About the Buddy Family Program?!

As a Buddy Family, you will play a crucial role in helping new families navigate Sterling Elementary and the broader community, offering friendly advice and support. New families will benefit from your experience and insights, making their transition smoother and more enjoyable.

#### What It Is Not.

While the Buddy Family Program is well-intentioned, some pairings may not be successful. The program does not serve as the sole indicator of a successful transition to the Sterling School/CTC community. Parents are always encouraged to contact his/her child's teacher and administration for any guidance and clarification regarding the community-based program at the Sterling School, and/or the gifted and talented program at the Charles Towne Center.

### Sign Up!

If you are interested in volunteering as a Buddy Family—or if you are a new family looking to sign up—don't hesitate! Scan the QR Code and complete this Community Directory Form. When prompted, select 'yes' to being contacted about the Buddy Family Program.

#### **Contact Information**

For more information, please contact <a href="mailto:sicsterlingctc@gmail.com">sicsterlingctc@gmail.com</a>