

# Hampton City Schools - Academies of Hampton COMMUNITY HUB LAUNCH



**We believe that our communities are filled with power that can reimagine family engagement and transform student learning and family experiences. The idea for community hubs came from our desire to generate dialogue with families to solicit their insight and suggestions on the Master Plan 2.0 Family Engagement Tactical Plan.**

On Tuesday, January 23, 2024, the Academies of Hampton invited parents and guardians to participate in their first Community Hub Chat & Chew. This inaugural event, held at Sweet Beans Coffee Shop, brought together Hampton families to engage in conversations around engagement while deepening a sense of connectivity and community.

Community Hubs enable parents and guardians to share ideas and feedback on family efficacy and what engagement looks and feels like as they become co-designers in reimagining family engagement.

Chanda Epps, project facilitator and coordinator of HCS Family Engagement highlighted the importance of these conversations: "I'm truly excited about the work that the Academies of Hampton is doing to transform our school division. While the concept of community hubs is not new, it is certainly essential to our family/student-centered approach to reimagining family engagement in HCS. We are meeting families where they are and creating welcoming spaces in the community to engage them as co-designers of not only developing a shared definition of family engagement but also in shaping a family engagement focus that provides essential parenting resources, looks at the development of whole student and defining the role of each stakeholder that is part of our students' educational journeys."

## Community Hub Host Spotlight



**SweetBeans**

3355 Commander Shepard Blvd.  
Hampton, VA 23666

SweetBeans serves the greater Hampton Roads area with great coffee, great food, family fun events, and catering opportunities!

**GRAB A CUP SOON.**



Heather and Mallory accept the Community Hub certificate on behalf of SweetBeans

This was an amazing experience for me to be a part of! It was super refreshing to hear parents speak and challenge what family engagement with schools means. It made me super proud to live in Hampton and gave me hope for our future.

Gabby Hayes, SweetBean Brand Awareness Expert



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The Community Hub Chat & Chews deepen the connections and partnerships with families, community members, and locally owned businesses as they engage all stakeholders as co-designers to reimagine family engagement that is centered around the **whole young person** (Portrait of a Hampton Graduate) and the **whole family** to move the student, family, and community forward.

**Special Shoutout** to Lilly Curry from the Academy of Teaching, Education, and Learning at Kecoughtan- a future elementary teacher, and Laylah Jones from the Academy of Health, Human, and Financial Services at Hampton- a future child therapist. Lily and Laylah, led the younger participants through guided conversations and activities, while their parents engaged in the broader conversation.



**COMMUNITY HUB**  
HAMPTON CITY SCHOOLS - ACADEMIES OF HAMPTON

Feedback from our Community Hub  
participants at Sweet Beans:

## What did you enjoy most about this event?

"I enjoyed having the platform to express my thoughts, values and input in a safe environment with other parents/guardians. This was a safe place where everyone's input was valued. It was also good to hear from other families...their experiences and thoughts about what being engaged really means to them/us."

- Parent/Guardian

"I appreciate the conversation prompts and allowing the parents to speak candidly."

- Community Member

"The conversations and view points of other families."

- Parent/Guardian

"Defining what family engagement is and how can family engagement support stakeholders."

- Parent/Guardian



Learn More: <https://bit.ly/HCSCommunityHubs>