

AR  
 Valley Springs Middle School (Valley Springs School District)  
 P.O. BOX 640  
 Valley Springs AR 72682  
 870-429-9208

### School Parent and Family Engagement Plan

<b>School Name:</b>	Valley Springs Middle School
<b>Facilitator Name:</b>	Natalie Roberts
<b>Plan Review/Revision Date:</b>	9/25/2020
<b>District Level Reviewer, Title:</b>	Kyle Mallett, Superintendent
<b>District Level Approval Date:</b>	

#### Committee Members, Role:

*(Select "Repeat" to open more entry fields to add additional team members)*

First Name	Last Name	Position
Natalie	Roberts	Middle School Counselor, Parent Facilitator
Tony	Mincer	Middle School Principal
Sara	Halsted	Library/Media Specialist
Hunter	Guynn	Math/Social Studies 5th
Karena	DeYoung	Literacy/Social Studies 6th
Vanessa	Eddings	Literacy/Social Studies 7/8

#### Committee Members, Role:

*(Select "Repeat" to open more entry fields to add additional team members)*

First Name	Last Name	Position
Dustin	Witty	Science/Ar. Hist/Geog. 7-8
Christie	Sessions	Parent
Abbie	Sessions	Student

#### 1: Jointly Developed

*(Describe/List how parents will be involved in the development of the school parent and family engagement plan and how parents will be involved in the planning, review, and improvement of parent and family engagement programs.)*

**Does the School Parent and Family Engagement Plan describe how the school will accomplish each of the required components?**

The Valley Springs Middle School invites, consults with, and involves parents in the annual Title I evaluation and process and the evaluation and formation of the School Parent and Family Engagement Plan. The Valley Springs Middle School encourages effective parental involvement and evaluates parental involvement efforts through this annual process by using a comprehensive needs assessment that is filled out by teachers, parents, and school staff prior to the end of the previous school year and then analyzed and discussed for development and implementation in the following school year.

The Valley Springs Middle School Title I committee is made up of teachers, parents, students, and school staff, and this committee determines the quality and effectiveness of the School Parent and Family Engagement Plan by reviewing the plan, developing the plan, and making any changes or improvements to the plan.

The Valley Springs Middle School makes efforts to collect data and information from parents through surveys regarding the effectiveness of the School Parent and Family Engagement plan. The collection of this data and parent input about the overall satisfaction and support of the school's programs are an important and critical part of the process. These surveys will be done to collect information regarding parent involvement participation, suggestions, ideas, and concerns of parents, effectiveness of the plan, and overall engagement of parents in the Valley Springs Middle School.

We also invite and ask for input from parents at our annual meetings, at regular parent nights, as well as in parent teacher conferences, in any meetings requested by parents, and in the beginning of the year paper work at registration. The Valley Springs Middle School does this in an effort to gain insight and glean information from parents concerning the types and frequency of activities parents feel will be most beneficial to not only them as parents but for the students and useful to encourage greater support for their children in school.

The Valley Springs Middle School then uses these ideas, any comments from parents, any suggestions for improvement to both the Title I and Parent and Family Engagement Plans, any surveyed information, as well as discussions with parents at their various meetings to plan the upcoming events and parental involvement opportunities for the school year. The school will submit any parent comments to the district office if the Title I Schoolwide Plan is not satisfactory to any parents. The school will then evaluate, at the end of each year, the various activities and parent involvement opportunities that parents suggested, any comments from parents, and discuss these as a part of the annual School Parent and Family Engagement Plan evaluation and meeting at the end of the year.

The Valley Springs Middle School also involves parents on the Valley Springs Middle School Improvement planning committee and other planning committees for parents that contribute to activities at the school as well as opportunities with the Valley Springs PTO. To support these meetings, the school includes and offers both school staff and parents training on how to contribute to the process meaningfully. Parents are notified and asked to attend and participate in the development of and assist in the implementation and evaluation of the Valley Springs Middle School's schoolwide improvement plan's needs assessments, informational and formational meetings, and in the evaluation of the processes and plans.

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## **2: Annual Title I Meeting**

*(Describe/List when (provide the month/year or month/day/year) the school will hold the Annual Title I meeting to inform parents of the requirements of Title I and the school's participation as well as the parents' rights to be involved. The Annual Title I meeting should not be used to ask for parent input, but provided as an opportunity to disseminate information and distribute copies of the revised parent and family engagement policy.)*

### **Does the School Parent and Family Engagement Plan describe how the school will accomplish each of the required components?**

The Valley Springs Middle School Annual Title I meeting will be held on Thursday, October 29, 2020 @2:30 PM. This meeting will be virtual as a zoom, as well as on site to accommodate for COVID 19, and it will serve to inform parents of the requirements of the Title I program and the school's participation in it. This meeting also will address the goals for the Title I program, the rights of parents to be involved in the Schoolwide Title I program,

our school accreditation, our use of Title I funds, our academic progress and curriculum and assessments, our school parent and family engagement plan and parent compact and our school improvement plan. Our Spring Title I Parent Meeting will be on February 12, 2021 @5:00 PM.

Parents are informed that the purpose of the annual Title I meeting is to discuss, relay, and disseminate information and distribute copies of the revised parent and family engagement policy and will not be a time for gathering input into the Parent and Family Engagement Plan and School-Parent Compacts.

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### **3: Communications**

*(Describe/List how the parent and family engagement policy will be distributed to parents and how the school is going to communicate with parents including information about how the school will provide information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities to parents in a format, to the extent practicable, and in a language that parents can understand.)*

#### **Does the School Parent and Family Engagement Plan describe how the school will accomplish each of the required components?**

The Valley Springs Middle School Parent and Family Engagement Plan is posted to the school and district website by August 1 each year. Parents, families, and the local community can access copies of this plan on our website and in our school office.

Parents will also each receive a copy of our Middle School Handbook, upon request, that has components of our Parent and Family Engagement Plan and the school parent compact within, of which they must sign and return acknowledging receipt of and understanding of the district's parent and family engagement plan summary. The handbook, as well as information passed out to students at the beginning of each year, contains information listing Natalie Roberts, School Counselor, as the Valley Springs Middle School Parent facilitator. This information is also posted on the Valley Springs Middle School website and the district site.

The School Parent and Family Engagement Plan was written to be read on a 6th grade reading level and is in a language that is understandable and uniform for parents and appropriate for the middle school grade levels of 5th-8th grades.

Each year, the Middle School students receive an informational packet and the handbook is provided upon request, as well as posted to the school and district website by August 1. This informational packet and handbook includes a description of the Parent and Family Engagement Plan, recommended roles for parents and students, ways for families to get involved in the Middle School in a variety of roles including parent volunteers, PTO, clubs and organizations, and extracurricular activities. Surveys are sent by the parent facilitator for volunteer interests. A schedule of activities is formulated, followed, and distributed. There are also many ways the Middle School engages in regular two-way conversation that is meaningful for parents, teachers, and students.

Due to COVID 19, the school has the Canvas LMS. Students will receive graded work and work samples, monthly calendars, newsletters, school info, and letters or notes from teachers and staff electronically through Canvas, enotes, and emails. Parents are asked to sign and return any documents required to be returned either electronically or through the drive up window. A school website is available for parents and community members to use to stay abreast of activities that are occurring in the school. Parents can see assignments and information about each of the classes in the school on the Canvas LMS as well. Parents can also use email through Canvas, as well as regular email, to communicate with teachers through this website. Teachers also have their own webpage for their classes. Parents may sign up as observers on Canvas and may also sign up for a PIN number to monitor student progress on ESchool. A parent newsletter is sent home throughout the year that gives parents tips on homework, testing, and ideas to help their child to succeed. Parents may sign up for text alerts from Enotes from the school about early dismissals, postponed activities, school pictures, parent meetings, parent nights, and other postings as they occur. Midterms and nine weeks grades, as well as current reading level of the students, will be made available to parents and any other time upon request. Teachers regularly contact parents on an individual basis and note this on contact logs that are required to be turned in. Achievement test scores are explained to parents yearly. Letters are sent home to parents making them aware of parent meetings connected to the Title I program and also parent involvement activities. Information is also posted on the school website, handouts are

given when needed, as well as a description in our handbook.

The following is a list of various meetings offered at various times for parents:

Report to the Public-August 24, 2020 @5:30.

Middle School Title I Meeting Oct. 29, 2020 @2:30

Middle School Parent and Family Engagement meeting Oct 29, 2020@ 1:00

Spring Title I Parent Meeting will be on February 12, 2021 @5:00 PM.

Parent/Teacher Conferences October 29, 2020 @ 2:30-8:30 PM.

Parent/Teacher Conferences March 11, 2021 @ 2:30-8:30 PM.

Virtual Orientation/Grade Level Orientations Week of 24th-28th, 2020 All Day

Book Fair November 9-13, VIP Day Nov. 13, 2020.

Tiger Coffee Room Evening/PT conferences October 29, 2020.

Virtual Kool Aid House December 2020

Book Fair/Parent Night February 2021

5th Grade Orientation May 2021 @ 5:30 PM

9th Grade Orientation May 2021 @6:30 PM

These meetings will be used to help parents understand how to enhance their child's education. Parents are encouraged to participate in various middle school activities. The activities include but are not limited to: Red Ribbon Week, PTO, Awards Programs, Teacher Appreciation Week, Field Days, Field Trips, Parent Volunteers, etc.

Mrs. Roberts and staff at our school also have phone conversations with parents regarding various activities and meetings, face to face in-person group meetings, and also individual meetings with parents. Mrs. Roberts and staff have also made home-visits to discuss and collaborate with parents.

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#### **4: School-Parent Compact**

*(Describe/List the process the schools will follow to jointly develop with parents a school-parent compact.)*

##### **Does the School Parent and Family Engagement Plan describe how the school will accomplish each of the required components?**

The Valley Springs Middle School staff, parents, and students collaboratively develop a school parent student compact that will be evaluated and revised as needed annually. This compact encourages parents to participate as full partners in the decisions that effect their children and family and be involved in their child's educational experience. The compact breaks down the roles of each party including the school, parents, and students.

The Parent Compact explains that the school will provide high quality curriculum aligned with state frameworks, quality instruction, quarterly report cards and regular progress reports throughout the school year. The school will allow access to staff during grade level common planning times, emails, contact on Canvas, and phone calls, as well as conferences with teachers.

The Parent Compact explains that the parents will monitor attendance, help with homework, volunteer, participate in their child's education, and stay informed and involved. In the event, a student is in Virtual Valley courses, this role has even more critical importance.

The Parent Compact explains that the students will strive to improve and grow academically, emotionally, mentally, and socially. Students will attend school and work to achieve academically and grow in academic courses and

efforts as needed and identified by state assessments and data as well as RTI courses and work.

The Parent Compact also addresses the need of the school, parents, and students to collaboratively work together to continue to pursue the tradition of excellence in achievement and growth in the challenging State academic standards and mandated State ACT Aspire Interim/Summative Testing.

Parents are welcome to visit the school at any time(not allowed inside at this time, due to COVID 19), monitor classroom activities, and are encouraged to become active by volunteering and becoming part of the PTO parent organization and in the school. To encourage communication with parents, parent/teacher conferences are held each year in the fall and spring, teachers meet with parents and students throughout the year, teachers communicate with Canvas emails, emails, phone calls, and letters, and they invite parents to do the same as questions arise. Parent nights will be scheduled throughout the year giving parents the opportunity to learn about activities and programs that will enhance their child's learning and have greater involvement in the Middle School. The school compact and the Parent and Family Engagement Plan are located in the Middle School Handbook, as well as on the school website, and all stakeholders are required to sign the compact and handbook.

Regular two-way communication is maintained through the Canvas LMS, Remind app, enotes, and various other methods. The school website is available for parents and community members to use to stay abreast of activities that are occurring in the school. Parents can also use email to communicate with teachers through this website. Teachers also have their own webpage for their classes. Parents may sign up for a PIN number to monitor student progress on ESchool. A parent newsletter is sent home throughout the year. Parents may sign up for text alerts from Enotes from the school. Midterms and nine weeks grades, as well as current reading level of the students, will be made available to parents and any other time upon request. Teachers regularly contact parents on an individual basis and note this on contact logs that are required to be turned in. Achievement test scores are explained to parents yearly. Letters are sent home to parents making them aware of parent meetings connected to the Title I program and also parent involvement activities. Information is also posted on the school website, handouts are given when needed, as well as a description in our handbook.

The Valley Springs Middle School provides various opportunities for parent/community support in our instructional program through programs like the extracurricular activities and events, volunteering, and volunteer help for teachers. The school will provide a list of volunteer opportunities after a parent survey and the parent meeting. The list of opportunities is kept with the Parent Facilitator and parents are able to volunteer for the various activities and make suggestions. Parent assistance and volunteering is encouraged and supported in order to provide a conducive environment for this to take place. Brief training sessions are provided for parents that participate and are interested in volunteering at the Valley Springs Middle School.

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## **5: Reservation of Funds**

*(If the district receives more than \$500,000 in Title I allocation, then it must reserve 1 percent for parent and family engagement activities. A minimum of 90% of that 1% must go to the schools, with priority given to high-need schools. If the school is allocated a percentage of the 1 percent, describe/list how the school will share with parents the budget for parent and family engagement activities and programs and how parents will be involved in providing input into how the funds are used.)*

### **Does the School Parent and Family Engagement Plan describe how the school will accomplish each of the required components?**

The Valley Springs School District does not receive more than \$500,000 in Title I allocations.

The Valley Springs Middle School does share its Title I allocations/budget for parent and family engagement activities and programs and how parents will be involved in providing input into how the funds are used.

Parents are notified and asked to attend and participate in the development of and assist in the implementation and evaluation of the Valley Springs Middle School's schoolwide improvement plan's needs assessments, informational and formational meetings, and in the evaluation of the process and plan.

Parents and stakeholders are also invited to attend the annual Title I meeting as well, and they are given the

opportunity to participate, make suggestions, and assist in the formulation, implementation, and evaluation of these plans. Parents are at the meeting and there is participation in the discussion of decisions on how we allocate the funds from Title I for parent involvement at the Valley Springs Middle School.

The Valley Springs Middle School Annual Title I meeting will be held on Thursday, October 29, 2020 @2:30 PM. Our Spring Title I Parent Meeting will be on February 12, 2021 @5:30 PM.

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## **6: Coordination of Services**

*(Describe/List how the district and/or school will coordinate with other organizations, businesses, and community partners to provide additional supports and resources to families.)*

### **Does the School Parent and Family Engagement Plan describe how the school will accomplish each of the required components?**

The Valley Springs Middle School, in conjunction with other schools in the Valley Springs School District utilizes a variety and number of community resources in the instructional program of the school.

The Valley Springs Middle School and District work in conjunction with the OUR Coop, the local education cooperative, and the Little Red School House preschool in order to foster transitional and early level relationships with these parents, staff, and students to coordinate and assist in parent involvement for these students. We also have an Orientation Night and parent/student meeting and open house to assist in the transition from Elementary to Middle School.

The Valley Springs Middle School works in conjunction with the Valley Springs High School to offer informational meetings, parent nights, and 9th grade orientation meetings for parents and students to inform the parents and students about how to be involved and to make the necessary decisions affecting course selection, career planning, and preparation for postsecondary opportunities. The Valley Springs Middle School also allows students to walk through the Valley Springs High School, tour facilities, and assist them with the help of both Middle and High School Counselors on forming and coming up with their Career Action Plan/Student Success Plan and schedule for the 9th grade year. There is also a Freshmen Orientation day before school starts, to acclimate these students to our High School more effectively. The parents and the students are asked and welcomed to call and discuss their schedules and career action plans as well as course selection and preparation for postsecondary opportunities.

The Valley Springs School District is a part of a grant through Project Aware that has been housed through the OUR Cooperative and provided our campus with a school based mental health therapist, with a behavior specialist, and a COOP liaison for the program in conjunction with two other districts in our area with a focus on PBIS in our schools, mental health first aid, wellness and mental health for students, parents, and staff, and overall mental health improvement in our school and community.

We also have a Burrell counseling service on campus with therapists to assist our mental health issues and needs. We also cooperate and coordinate classroom activities, instruction, and lessons with the Boone County Tobacco/Nicotine Free Coalition for Prevention. We offer instruction and lessons and also have attend the annual Teen Summit for our 8th grade to discuss multiple social, emotional, and physical issues our youth face. We also partner with the Arkansas Attorney Generals office to use presentations and information regarding social media and internet safety to present at school, in classrooms, at parent nights, and on our website. We also have a School Resource Officer and Reserve Deputies on campus to assist in our day to day operations and safety in our schools in coordination with the Boone County Sheriff's Office.

The Valley Springs PTO is active in our elementary, middle, and high schools. They have a website and facebook page, regularly communicate and engage in school activities, fundraisers, and as support for parents, students, staff, and the school in the community at large. There is also a Valley Springs Alumni Association that provides scholarships for students, serves as an advisory group for the school, partners with the school on activities, positive school advertising, and seeking ways to advance the impact of the Valley Springs School District.

Community banks support our schools with give away programs, tshirts for staff, advertising support for school clubs and organizations. There are also members of our business community that advertise and support clubs and organizations as well as collaborate in job shadow programs, education of our students through our local junior

college, involvement in clubs like Builder's Club and Key Club in the realm of our local Kiwanis Club, and the development of not only college but also career ready students from our school district.

The Valley Springs Middle School and the parent facilitator and staff ask parents, stakeholders, community members, and businesses and organizations for interest in volunteering, assisting, and for involvement in the Middle School and school district as a whole. This coordination and cooperation is highlighted, discussed, and revised annually and is a part of our Title I, Parent and Family Engagement, and School Improvement Plans.

The Valley Springs Middle School, in efforts to promote and support responsible and effective parenting, and as funds are available, purchases are made of multiple resources, magazines, and guidebooks and pamphlets that contain information that is critical to encourage and support responsible parenting through the school library, parent corner, counselor's office, and we inform and allow parents the opportunity to borrow the materials for review. The Valley Springs Middle School has a parent center and information located in the Valley Springs Middle School's Counselor's Office. There is also a Parent Corner located on the second floor of the Valley Springs Middle School for teachers, parents, and students to visit and sit and look through and take or borrow resources on various topics to encourage and promote effective parenting. Parents of Valley Springs Middle School students are encouraged and welcome to check out any of the available materials in the Parent Corner and/or the Counselor's office, and coordinate, participate, and communicate with our parent facilitator and in programs, meetings, and activities that will help to promote and support responsible parenting.

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## **7: Building Capacity of Parents**

*(Describe/List activities, such as workshops, conferences, classes, online resources, Academic Parent-Teacher Team meetings, and any equipment or other materials that may be necessary to support parents in helping their student's academic success.)*

### **Does the School Parent and Family Engagement Plan describe how the school will accomplish each of the required components?**

The Valley Springs Middle School makes a concerted and focused effort to provide numerous opportunities for parent involvement with a variety of activities, workshops, conferences, classes, online resources, meetings, and use of equipment and materials that support the parents and students to assist in their overall academic success. A list of some examples of parent meetings/events follows:

Report to the Public-August 24, 2020 @5:30.

Middle School Title I Meeting Oct. 29, 2020 @2:30

Middle School Parent and Family Engagement meeting Oct 29, 2020@ 1:00

Spring Title I Parent Meeting will be on February 12, 2021 @5:00 PM.

Parent/Teacher Conferences October 29, 2020 @ 2:30-8:30 PM.

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Virtual Orientation/Grade Level Orientations Week of 24th-28th, 2020 All Day

Book Fair November 9-13, VIP Day Nov. 13, 2020.

Tiger Coffee Room Evening/PT conferences October 29, 2020.

Virtual Kool Aid House December 2020

Book Fair/Parent Night February 2021

5th Grade Orientation May 2021 @ 5:30 PM

9th Grade Orientation May 2021 @6:30 PM

The Valley Springs Middle School provides an explanation and description of the curriculum in use in the school in the school's handbook which is passed out to all students and must be signed upon receipt. The handbook is

posted on the school and district website for access to all. The curriculum of the school is also discussed in the annual Report to the Public.

The Valley Springs Middle School provides annually results of individual student academic assessment results on the state mandated Interim and Summative Assessment, the ACT Aspire Test. Copies of individual results of students are given to parents at the beginning of the year and on file in each student's permanent records. Results are interpreted and analyzed by staff and students are placed in necessary RTI and enrichment skills classes, which is also explained to parents in all grades through our SSP or student success plans, which parents also have to sign upon receipt.

Parents are given pamphlets and information explaining the state assessments and measurements used to identified, track, and sustain growth for all students. Students are encouraged and supported through various incentives and rewards to pursue continual growth on the challenging assessments over our rigorous State academic standards. Parents are instructed through meetings, pamphlets, conferences, conversations, and discussion at parent nights, conferences, or meeting about the state standards, state assessments(including alternate assessments when applicable), Title I Part A requirements, strategies and study skills/methods parents can use to support academic progress, and they are encouraged to partner with teachers to support constant achievement by students.

Learning activities in the Middle School will follow developmentally appropriate levels and will include role playing, demonstrations, conversations, and discussions with various staff and volunteers.

Parents, teachers, students, and all stakeholders are informed and/or have access to the DESE website and tools for parents at [<http://www.arkansased.gov>]

Parents are provided information from our cafeteria and food service director in the handbook and through handouts that provide information and assistance with nutritional meal planning and preparation for all students.

The Valley Springs Middle School works in conjunction with the Valley Springs High School to offer informational meetings, parent nights, and 9th grade orientation meetings for parents and students to inform the parents and students about how to be involved and to make the necessary decisions affecting course selection, career planning, and preparation for postsecondary opportunities. We assist them with the help of both Middle and High School Counselors on forming and coming up with their Career Action Plan/Student Success Plan and schedule for the 9th grade year. The parents and the students are asked and welcomed to call and discuss their schedules and career action plans as well as course selection and preparation for postsecondary opportunities.

The Valley Springs Middle School provides materials and training to help encourage and stimulate responsible parenting. Our efforts with parents strive to assist them to work with their children to improve their children's achievement in the Valley Springs Middle School. There are literacy nights, math and other subject nights, technology nights, and other parent nights and activities and there is information and training that are provided to foster greater parent involvement and engagement with students.

\*Due to COVID 19 there will be adjustments and variations to this plan that line up with the guidelines and allowances of the CDC, Arkansas Department of Health, and DESE of Arkansas.

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## **8: Building Capacity of School Staff**

*(Describe/List activities such as workshops, conferences, trainings, webinars, online resources, and Academic Parent-Teacher Team meetings that will be used with school staff to build their capacity to work with parents as equal partners. Describe/List methods of parents' assistance for building staff capacity. Describe/List actions the school will take to provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities.)*

### **Does the School Parent and Family Engagement Plan describe how the school will accomplish each of the required components?**

The Valley Springs Middle School and school district works to ensure staff professional development requirements are met for each of its teachers and administrators. Documentation and certifications are turned in and housed with Erica Ketchum, the district instructional and testing coordinator. Teachers are trained in yearly PD

requirements.

Training of teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, other school leaders, and other staff, is completed annually with the inclusion/assistance of parents.

This training focuses on the importance that parents play an integral role in assisting student learning, that they are valuable contributors to their students education and useful in the furtherance of our schools goal to produce academically, socially, emotionally, and mentally healthy students that can contribute to our community in positive and valuable ways.

The training maintains and discusses how Valley Springs Middle School communicates and reaches out to parents and students and we collaboratively develop a school, parent, student compact. This collaboration and compact encourages parents to participate as full/equal partners in the decisions that effect their children and family and be involved in their child's educational experience overall. Our school works to build ties between home and school through literacy nights, math and other subject nights, technology nights, and other parent nights and activities and there is information and training that are provided to foster greater parent involvement and engagement with students. Parents are given pamphlets and information explaining the state assessments and measurements used to identified, track, and sustain growth for all students in their academics. Conferences are held twice per year, and parents can email, call, or schedule conferences at any time during teacher's common planning times to discuss their students.

In our training of staff we reiterate our role of collaboration and parent partners for students and that parents are welcome to visit the school at any time and encouraged to become active by volunteering and becoming part of the PTO parent organization and/or with our parent facilitator. Teachers and staff are sure to communicate with parents in formats and in language that is parents can relate to and understand clearly. Any confusion is cleared up through the office, principal, or parent facilitator. Parent requests for involvement in parent and family engagement planning and activities are listened to and directed to the parent facilitator for Middle School. Willing parents are utilized in many of the above mentioned activities and teams as well as a part of annual reviews, meetings, and discussions.

The Valley Springs Middle School Handbook contains the Parent-Teacher-Student Compact and the School Parent and Family Engagement Plan. The Handbook also contains the process for resolving parent concerns and how parents should follow a chain of command addressing the direct individual issues may deal with, and then moving through the chain of command as needed.

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### **9: Building Capacity - Discretionary**

*(The school parent and family engagement policy/plan may include additional sections describing other discretionary activities that the school, in meaningful consultation with its parents, chooses to undertake to build capacity.)*

#### **Did the School and Parents choose to include any Discretionary (Optional) Components in the School Parent and Family Engagement Plan?**

Parent input from various surveys, conversations, and discussions will be utilized to assist in the development of effective and thorough training for teachers, principals, and educators. Parents will also be contributors to and members of the various planning teams to allow for parent insight and input.

Efforts are continually made to improve communication and build further capacity for all stakeholders through numerous meetings, conferences, teams, trainings, and care is given to allow for a quality of communication and clarity between the school and parents/students.

Parent participation is a priority in the Middle School, and efforts are made to ease expenses including providing meals, rewards, materials, and assistance to families in need. This enhances and furthers the opportunity for parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.

Parents are also identified early and often as leaders in school life and in the community and are put to use in leadership roles on teams, in meetings, on plan evaluations and revisions, in volunteer positions all in an effort to

enhance and increase the involvement of other parents.

The Valley Springs Middle School intentionally and purposefully arranges school meetings at a variety of times, often times conducts in-home conferences, and communicates and conferences with parents unable to attend conferences at the school all in an effort to maximize parental involvement and participation in their children's education. The Middle School is striving to seek out and revise our current approach to parent involvement by researching, selecting, and implementing best practices and model approaches to improving parent and family engagement.

The Valley Springs School District has a Parent Advisory Council/Committee. This meeting allows for parents to attend, learn, and listen about various parent involvement opportunities, volunteer for specific committees and needs, and communicate concerns with parent facilitators and administrators. This advisory council/committee will provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs.

The Valley Springs Middle School has a variety of community-based organizations and businesses as well as groups and community leaders that are involved in parent and family engagement activities through the school and community. We are a part of a group of schools implementing the Project Aware program through the OUR Cooperative, and this grant has provided our campus with a school based mental health therapist, with a behavior specialist, and a COOP liason for the program. This program focuses on PBIS in our schools, mental health first aid, wellness and mental health for students, parents, and staff, and overall mental health improvement in our school and community. We also have a Youthbridge counseling service on campus with therapists to assist our mental health issues and needs. We also cooperate and coordinate classroom activities, instruction, and lessons with the Boone County Tobacco/Nicotine Free Coalition for Prevention. We offer assemblies and lessons and also attend the annual Teen Summit for our 8th grade at the Durand Center to discuss multiple social, emotional, and physical issues our youth face. We also have a School Resource Officer and Reserve Deputies on campus to assist in our day to day operations and safety in our schools in coordination with the Boone County Sheriff's Office.

The Valley Springs PTO is active in our elementary, middle, and high schools. They have a website and Facebook page, regularly communicate and engage in school activities, fundraisers, and as support for parents, students, staff, and the school in the community at large.

There is also a Valley Springs Alumni Association that provides scholarships for students, serves as an advisory group for the school, partners with the school on activities, positive school advertising, and seeking ways to advance the impact of the Valley Springs School District.

Community banks support our schools with give away programs, tshirts for staff, advertising support for school clubs and organizations. There are also members of our business community that advertise and support clubs and organizations as well as collaborate in job shadow programs, education of our students through our local junior college, involvement in clubs like Builder's Club and Key Club in the realm of our local Kiwanis Club, and the development of not only college but also career ready students from our school district.

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**(See complete [Arkansas Guide for School Parent and Family Engagement Plan](#) for references)**

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**District Feedback**

- Attention: Changes Needed!
- In Compliance

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**Comments:**