

Bismarck Elementary School  
Bismarck School District  
501-865-3616h

*2017-2018 Parent and Family Engagement Plan as Required by Act 307*

Bismarck Elementary school will maximize its efforts to keep parents informed and involved.

Grade Levels: Kindergarten through Fourth Grade

Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator: Whitney Thornton

Bismarck Elementary will list various communication strategies used in our school to provide additional information to parents and increase parent and family involvement in supporting classroom instruction.

1. Each teacher will send home a folder containing student papers and work samples each week. Parents will be asked to sign the folder and send it back to school.
2. Teachers will routinely contact parents on an individual basis to communicate about their child's progress.
3. Bismarck Elementary will distribute a monthly newsletter to parents that is developed with participation of the parent-school organization, principal, staff, and parent volunteers. It includes school news, a calendar of school activities, and parenting tips related to school achievement such as homework tips, organizational skills, and study skills.
4. Bismarck Elementary will send Standards Based Report Cards every nine weeks regarding their child's progress. At three weeks students that are struggling or below grade level will receive a progress report and at six weeks all students will receive a progress report.
5. Bismarck Elementary will give parents their child's test results and standardized test scores at the first parent-teacher conference and send parents a parent-friendly letter in the first report card that explains their child's test results and standardized test scores.
6. The School will use the student handbook, school web site, signage at the school entrance, and parent orientation meetings about the Schoolwide Title 1 Plan and how to get a copy upon request.
7. Bismarck Elementary will develop community partnerships that will foster a positive relationship between the school and community. Bismarck Elementary will use the partnerships on an as needed basis to enhance and promote community involvement at our school and meet the needs of both students and staff.
8. Parents will be notified of activities at school and will be encouraged to participate in those activities. Bismarck will utilize the school newsletter, "Little Paws", website, email, school-reach, Twitter, Facebook, and other classroom newsletters to keep parents informed.

9. Bismarck's Parent Center will provide books, DVD's, literacy and math materials for checkout. Parents may use the computer to check grades, and visit educational websites. Parents will be encouraged to view the Title I plan located in the parent resource center or media center. A suggestion sheet will also be available for parental input.
10. Bismarck Elementary will distribute informational packets each year that includes a copy of the school's parental involvement plan, survey for volunteer interests, recommended roles for parents/teachers/students and school, suggestions of ways parents can become involved in their child's education, parental involvement activities planned for the current school year information about the system that will be used to allow parents and teachers to communicate (notes, phone calls, email, etc).
11. Bismarck Elementary will promote and support responsible parenting; the school shall, as funds are available: Purchase parenting books, magazines, and other informative materials regarding responsible parenting through the school library, advertise the current selection, and give parents the opportunity to borrow the materials for review.
12. The principal of Bismarck Elementary will designate (1) certified staff member, Whitney Thornton, as a parent facilitator.

**Information regarding parent meetings, conferences, and activities throughout the year which are meant to increase parental involvement and build staff and parent capacity are as follows:**

Bismarck Elementary meetings will be held at various times during the day or evening to better accommodate parents. The school will encourage parents in the following types of roles and activities to increase their involvement and support for student learning:

- \*Library assistant
- \*Reading buddy
- \*Mentor
- \*Teacher assistant
- \*Tutor
- \*Special parent lunches
- \*Book fair helpers
- \*Grandparents Day
- \*Awards day presentation
- \*Field day volunteers
- \*Red Ribbon Week
- \*Dental Week
- \*Family Reading night
- \*Parent education workshops
- \*Orientation presentations
- \*Open House

- \*Parent-school organization
- \*Choir concerts
- \*Various committees

\*Teachers will hold conferences individually with parents of children in their classrooms on October 25, 2017 and February 16, 2018. Parents will be given a summary of the student test scores and an explanation of the interventions teachers are using to assist the child in reaching achievement goals. Parents will also be asked to engage in discussion of how they can support these efforts and explanations of homework and grading procedures.

**Bismarck Elementary will provide information regarding volunteer opportunities to parents.**

\*Bismarck elementary school will provide a list of volunteer opportunities and solicit ideas for other types of volunteer efforts during orientation of parents. Teachers will explain the requirements to parents and encourage them to become involved in the school. Brief training sessions by staff will provide parents and community members with the information they need to participate as school volunteers in order to put them at ease and make the experience pleasant and successful.

\*Provide instruction to a parent on how to incorporate developmentally appropriate learning activities in the home environment, including without limitation: role play and demonstration by trained volunteers, the use of and access to the Department of Education website tools for parents, assistance with nutritional meal planning and preparation and other strategies or curricula developed or acquired by the school district for at home parental instruction approved by the Department of Education.

**Bismarck Elementary will work with parents to create a School-Parent-Compact.**

\*School staff, parents, and students will develop a School-Parent-Compact. This compact will outline how parents, school staff, and students share the responsibility for improving student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high academic standards.

**Bismarck Elementary will provide opportunities for parents to be involved in the development, implementation, and evaluation of the school wide school improvement plan, and the Annual Title I Meeting to engage them in the decision-making processes regarding the school's Title I, Part A Program.**

\*Bismarck Elementary will take advantage of community resources and recruit alumni from the school to participate on our ACSIP teams, curriculum teams, and participate in our peer review meeting. This process will provide advice and guidance for school improvement.

\*Bismarck Elementary shall enable the formation of a Parent Teacher Organization that will foster parental and community involvement within the school.

**Bismarck Elementary will engage parents in the evaluation of our parental involvement efforts by:**

\*The School will engage parents in the annual evaluation of the Title I, Part A Program's parental involvement efforts through an annual evaluation using a comprehensive needs assessment filled out by teachers, parents, and school staff. The Title I committee, made up of teachers, parents, and school staff, will determine the effectiveness of the parental involvement plan and make changes if warranted. While collecting evidence about satisfaction with the program and the school's efforts to increase parental involvement will be a part of the evaluation, the survey will also collect specific information on the (1) growth in number of parents participating in workshops and meetings; (2) specific needs of parents; (3) effectiveness of specific strategies; and (4) engagement of parents in activities to support student academic growth.

**How will your school use the parent interest surveys to select, plan and implement parental involvement activities that will be offered throughout the year?**

\*The school will ask parents to fill out a parent interest survey at registration or at the beginning of each school year to get information from parents concerning the activities they feel will be most beneficial in the efforts to support their child academically.

\*The school will use results of the parent interest survey to plan the parental involvement activities for the year.

\*The school will evaluate the activities that were suggested by the parents at the end of the year as part of the annual parental involvement plan evaluation.

**Bismarck Elementary will conduct an Annual Title 1 Meeting:**

\*The School will hold their Annual Title 1 meeting separate from any other meetings or activities to ensure that they have ample time to provide a description/explanation of school curriculum, information on forms of academic assessments used to measure student progress and information on proficiency level students are expected to meet.