

Bismarck High School 2017-18 Parent, Family, and Community Engagement Plan

Communication

Bismarck High School recognizes that regular, two-way, meaningful communication between home and school is a key to every student's success. Methods to enhance communication include telephone, email, the school website, text messaging systems such as Remind 101 and e-notes, parent handouts, the district marquee, school and area newspapers, and written notices posted in easily viewed locations on the school campus and in the community. Open House, parent/teacher conferences held each semester, parent meetings, and seminars devoted to a variety of topics give parents an opportunity to meet with faculty and stay well informed. Individual conferences may be scheduled by parents and faculty as needed. The school sends home mid-quarter progress reports and 9-weeks grades, and parents may view their child's progress at any time through the online Home Access Center. Parent informational packets with a variety of helpful information are provided to parents each year.

Conferences, Parent Nights/Meetings

During Open House at the beginning of each year, the principal presents information on school policies, assessments, curriculum, and plans for the upcoming year. Parents and students tour the building and meet with teachers. Two parent/teacher conferences are held each year, one per semester. Conferences begin early in the afternoon and continue thru mid-evening to allow parents to attend when convenient. CAPS (Career Action Planning for Students) conferences are held each spring. Parents, students, and teacher advisors review each student's career goals and graduation plan in order to select appropriate courses for the coming year. Senior night is held each fall. Representatives from institutions of higher education and the armed services are available to meet with students and parents to discuss educational opportunities. Students and parents from all grade levels are encouraged to attend. Additional parent meetings, seminars, and activities are held throughout the year to keep parents active in the school and informed about how to be involved in decisions affecting their child. Among these are academic awards programs; athletic events; choral and band programs; club programs such as FFA, FCCLA, and FBLA; Beta Club induction; counselor seminars on topics such as assessments, college planning, course selection, and other ways in which parents may provide learning activities at home; college financial aid seminars; and EAST Night Out.

Volunteer Opportunities

To encourage parent participation, volunteer surveys are distributed during parent/teacher conferences and other parent meetings to determine interests and availability of volunteers. Information on specific ways volunteers might help will be included. The surveys will be used to compile a volunteer resource book that may be used by school staff to identify parents willing to help with specific projects. Information on volunteer opportunities will also be included in the informational packets distributed to all parents. In addition to parents, Bismarck High School encourages community involvement. The school reaches out to individual community members and businesses, and works with community organizations such as the Bismarck Business

Association and Bismarck Lions Club to provide services to students. Bismarck School District provides professional development designed to enhance understanding of effective parent involvement strategies to staff as mandated by the Arkansas Department of Education.

School/Parent Compact

Each student shall have a student success plan developed in collaboration by the teachers, parents and student. Academic measures such as the ACT Aspire, NWEA Map testing, Science Aspire Interim testing, subject grades, and student work samples will be used in creating and updating a student's SSP. All 9th and 10th grade students will take the NWEA Map test for Reading, Math and Language in August at the beginning of school and again in January. 9th and 10th grade students will also take the Science Aspire Interim test in the fall and again in January. Grade level PLC's will collaborate using this data to develop personalized learning plans to help students achieve their grade-level expectations and individual growth.

Parent Resources

The BHS Library maintains a selection of parenting materials including books, magazines, and brochures to assist parents. These may be checked out, and many are free to keep. In addition to the library collection, the Bismarck High School Parent Center contains additional materials to help in parenting. Topics include substance abuse prevention, internet safety, bullying prevention, college and career planning, strategies that promote learning, and many more. The Parent Center is located in the BHS Library Media Center. Parents are welcome to visit and check out materials during regular school hours. Other parent resources are available in the school counselor's office, the school nurse's office, the main school office, and in informational displays in the school lobby. The high school website contains links to the Home Access Center online grading system for parents to check student progress. Faculty email addresses and teacher webpages are included. Numerous educational links are available to help parents assist their children with school assignments and educational planning. Informational packets are distributed to parents each year. The packets include the school's parental involvement plan; the recommended role of the parent, student, teacher, and school; ways for parents to become involved in the school and their child's education; a parent volunteer survey; school contact information; school calendar; guides to using the school website; free and reduced lunch applications and meal planning guides; and other items to assist parents in helping their child at home. The school handbook includes the school's process for addressing parental concerns, including how to define a problem, whom to consult first, and how to develop solutions. The principal designates a certified staff member to serve as a parent facilitator.

Parent Surveys

Parents are asked to complete parent interest surveys during parent/teacher conferences, parent meetings, CAPS conferences, and other school events to determine the activities parents believe will be helpful in supporting their children. Results of the surveys are used in planning future activities.