

Marion Middle School Parent and Family Engagement Plan

Marion Middle School understands the importance of involving parents and the community as a whole in promoting higher student achievement and general good will between the school and those it serves. Therefore, Marion Middle School shall strive to develop and maintain the capacity for meaningful and productive parental and community involvement that will result in partnerships that are mutually beneficial to the school, students, parents, and the community. To achieve such ends, the school shall work to

1. Involve parents and the community in the development and improvement of Title I programs for the school;
2. Have a coordinated involvement program where the involvement activities of the school enhance the involvement strategies of other programs such as Head Start, HIPPI, Parents as Partners, Parents as Teachers, ABC, ABC for School Success, area Pre-K programs, and Even Start;
3. Explain to parents and the community the State's content and achievement standards, State and local student assessments and how the school's curriculum is aligned with the assessments and how parents can work with the school to improve their child's academic achievement;
4. Provide parents with the materials and training they need to be better able to help their child achieve. The school may use parent resource centers or other community based organizations to foster parental involvement and provide literacy and technology training to parents.
5. Educate school staff, with the assistance of parents, in ways to work and communicate with parents and to know how to implement parent involvement programs that will promote positive partnerships between the school and parents;
6. Keep parents informed about parental involvement programs, meetings, and other activities they could be involved in. Such communication shall be, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand;
7. Find ways to eliminate barriers that work to keep parents from being involved in their child's education. This may include providing transportation and child care to enable parents to participate, arranging meetings at a variety of times, and being creative with parent/teacher conferences;
8. Find and modify other successful parent and community involvement programs to suit the needs of our school;
9. Train parents to enhance and promote the involvement of other parents;
10. Provide reasonable support for other parental involvement activities as parents may reasonably request.

To help promote an understanding of each party's role in improving student learning, Marion Middle School shall develop a compact that outlines the responsibilities of parents, students, and the school staff in raising student academic achievement and in building the partnerships that will enable students to meet the State's academic standards.

Marion Middle School shall convene an annual meeting, or several meetings at varying times if necessary to adequately reach parents of students, to inform parents of its requirements regarding parental involvement, and the parent's right to be involved in the education of their child.

Marion Middle will encourage parental involvement by providing opportunities for parents to interact with school programs and events.

The following actions will be used by Marion Middle School to implement the parental engagement policy:

Action 1: Each faculty member, regular classroom and special education, will receive the appropriate hours in effective parent involvement staff development as required by Arkansas law.

Action 2: Each August before the beginning of school, MMS hosts a Welcome Back to School Night for Parents. At this meeting, parents receive information about state test scores, policies, procedures, and have the opportunity to meet their child's teacher. This meeting also includes an invitation to participate in the school's system of parent communication (HAC), parent committees, etc.

Action 3: Marion Middle School will provide a school handbook with a receipt page to be signed and returned by parents/guardians. This also includes our Student/Parent/School Compact to be read, signed, and returned. This complete handbook is also accessible on the MMS website.

Action 4: The MMS Student Handbook contains the school's process for resolving parental concerns.

Action 5: Our MMS Band Director holds parent meetings to describe the requirements for participation in this program. Parents are encouraged to join the Band Boosters Club.

Action 6: MMS coaches hold parent meetings for each sport offered. These meetings include explanations of policies, rules, requirements, etc. for the parents/students participating. Parents' signatures are required to prove they have been informed of the policies, etc.

Action 7: Home Access Center is the system to be used as a form of parent communication. Participation and feedback of this system will be used as ongoing evaluations regarding our parental involvement program.

Action 8: Surveys will be submitted to parents during the first semester and again during the second semester to determine the effectiveness of our parental involvement program.

Action 9: MMS will provide at least two opportunities for parent/teacher conferences during each academic year.

Action 10: Parents will have continual access to updated MMS information through our website and through their child's account on the Home Access Center system of parent communication which will provide up-to-the-moment grades and assignments. For families with no internet access at home, MMS gives information on community establishments that offer internet use for free or a nominal fee. Also, a school messenger voice call and paper announcements are sent home with each student regarding special functions and other information.

Action 11: The MMS Parent Resource center will be maintained with current information on topical issues dealing with middle school students.

Action 12: Teachers will send progress reports/report cards to all parents/guardians throughout the year.

Action 13: All teachers, regular classroom and special education, have been trained to-effectively communicate using the Home Access Center. Grades may be accessed anytime by students and parents via the internet. School information, calendars, menus, etc. are also accessible via the MMS website.

Action 14: Materials will be purchased to aid the students and the parents with topical issues such as, character education, drug intervention, as well as parent and student motivation. These materials will be kept in the counselor's' office and the Parent Facilitator's room/office.

Action 15: A Parent/Alumni Advisory Committee is formed each year. This committee meets with our Parent Facilitator to discuss issues/problems/concerns regarding MMS. (Parent Involvement Meeting)

Action 16: Marion Middle School collaborates with local agencies to help students and parents with community activities (ex: East Arkansas Youth Services, YMCA, Counseling Consultants, Day Spring and Marion Youth Sports Association)

Action 17: MMS distributes parent surveys yearly to request volunteers for various roles. These completed surveys (compiled in a Volunteer Resource Book) are kept in a central location for teachers to use throughout the year.

Action 18: MMS has a parent facilitator.

Action 19: MMS will notify parents of the School Improvement status by written notice and in the Report to the Public.

Action 20: The MMS Library has added the web-based program Destiny which allows parents to access information regarding books, materials, etc. available for their child's use. This program gives details about each book located in the MMS Library including reading levels and summaries of the content.

Action 21: MMS parents have the opportunity to develop a PTA/PTO group.

Action 22: The MMS Counselor conferences with all 6th graders each Spring regarding 7th grade registration, requirements, classes and choices.

Action 23: The MMS Counselor meets with sixth graders' parents each Spring during the night of our regular Parent/Teacher Conferences. During this meeting, the parents receive information regarding 7th grade registration and Smart Core versus Common Core curricula. Parents have the opportunity to complete a Smart Core Informed Consent Form and a 7th grade Pre-Registration Request Form. These forms are mandatory for students who are entering the 7th grade that fall.

Action 24: After each significant event MMS sponsors, a notice is placed on the MMS website thanking parents for their support, participation, and cooperation during that event.

This policy shall be distributed to parents of the district's students and provided, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

Parental Information and Resource Centers

The Center for Effective Parenting serves as the Arkansas State Parent Information & Resource Center (PIRC). Information for the Arkansas State PIRC can be found at <http://www.parenting-ed.org>.

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