

## **Hardy County Schools**

### **Parent/Guardian Expectations**

The Hardy County Board of Education believes that students are more successful when parents/guardians and the community are involved with the schools in the education process. Therefore, it shall be the policy of the Board to recognize the value of parent/guardian/community participation, input, support, and cooperation by encouraging involvement through volunteer work, participation in decision-making, parent/guardian/school organizations, communication, school visitation, home visitation, extra-curricular activities and general support with students' schooling.

The term "parent/guardian," as used in this policy, includes those with legal or quasi-legal custodianship (i.e. biological, adoptive, foster, custodial parents). The term "community," as used in this policy, includes those individuals living within the community boundaries of Hardy County and close associated geographic areas.

There are many types of services that can be provided to schools by volunteers. Activities which involve direct contact with students include: monitoring activities, listening to a child read, using flashcards, library work, computer assistance, tutoring, etc. Services which do not involve direct contact with students include: clerical duties, making charts and learning stations, using the duplicating machine, chaperoning school activities and/or field trips, etc.

Individuals who have time to share on a regular basis should see the school principal in their community to sign up and to obtain further information. A training session is provided before volunteers begin to work in the school, involving the disclosure of student information and data, confidentiality of school information, and the school's expectation for the volunteer placement in the school.

Volunteers work under the direction of teacher and/or the principal. (See Hardy County Policy KBG)

#### **I. Parent/Guardian Involvement in Decision Making**

It is important that parents/guardians be involved in decision making concerning the education of their children. The Board provides this opportunity for participation in decision making (HC Policy KBG): in the following ways:

##### **A. School Improvement Councils**

A Local School Improvement Council is established at every school, which provides opportunities for involvement of the school community in the operation of the local schools and to support local initiatives to improve school performance. The parents/guardians of the students enrolled at the school who are elected by the school's parents/guardians and teachers serve on the school's Local School Improvement Council.

##### **B. Advisory Councils**

Advisory councils have the function of providing input on the development of the educational program of their children through regular meetings and activities. Some of these advisory councils active in Hardy County Schools include, the Title One Advisory Council, the Hardy County Vocational Advisory Council, and the school level Committees.

##### **C. Special Committees**

Parents/guardians may be invited to serve on special committees for specific projects set up by the Superintendent and/or the Board of Education.

#### **II. Parent/Guardian/School Organizations**

The Board supports the establishment of organizations designed to provide cooperation between the school and parents/guardians to improve education for the students in Hardy County Schools.

A. Parent/Guardian Teacher Organizations:

Parent/Guardian Teacher Organizations are an important part of the school communities in Hardy County. The Board of Education recognizes the valuable services performed by these groups for the benefit of children and families.

B. Booster Organizations:

Organizations of parents/guardians to support school programs, i.e., Band Boosters, Athletic Boosters, etc., are also encouraged. All groups must receipt and disburse funds according to Hardy County Policy DDFA.

III. Communication

The Board supports all means of communication between parents/guardians and schools. For parents/guardians to become fully involved in the education of their children, they must be fully aware of school activities and programs as well as classroom activities.

A. Schools are charged with keeping parents updated and informed. Schools and school organizations are encouraged to provide information to the news media regarding activities and developments in their schools. Parent/guardian-teacher conferences are scheduled at least twice a year, but the teacher or the parent/guardian is encouraged to initiate a conference at any time if determined necessary to ensure the success of the student.

IV. School Visitation

Parents/guardians of the students are welcome to visit the schools. When visiting the schools, visitors must report to the office of the school. If a parent/guardian is wishing to visit the classroom of their student the following procedure must be followed:

- Prior to visiting the classroom, the parent/guardian of the student must communicate his/her desire to visit the classroom to the principal stating the reason for the visit.
- To ensure the safety and confidentiality of all students in the classroom, the principal shall notify all parents/guardians of the students in the classroom of the request to visit the classroom.
- If any parent/guardian of a student in a classroom objects to the visit of the classroom, the request to visit shall NOT be approved.

If a classroom has announced a class wide activity or parent/guardian visitation day, the teacher must have the event approved by the principal prior to announcing the event to the parents/guardians. With a class wide activity announced, the parents/guardians of the students do not have an expectation of privacy for their student in the class and parents/guardians of the students may attend without making a prior request to the principal. Parents/guardians shall report to the office and sign in with the school secretary before going to the class wide activity.

V. Home Visitation

School personnel may visit the homes of their students at their own discretion. School personnel visiting the homes of their students should advise their school principal of their intent to visit. Prior notice of the intent to visit shall be given to the parent/guardian of the student.

VI. General Support of Students Schooling

Parents/guardians can support their child's learning by:

- attending school activities and functions
- initiating direct communication with their child's teacher concerning progress and/or any problems or concerns

- responding to communications from the teacher and/or the school concerning their child's progress
- helping their child improve their school work by providing encouragement, arranging for appropriate study time and space, modeling desired behavior (such as reading with pleasure), monitoring homework, actively tutoring their children at home, and any other activities suggested by their child's teacher(s).

VII. Involvement of Other Interested Persons

Community members are also encouraged to participate in activities in our schools as volunteers.

Please refer to Hardy County File: KBG, School Volunteers, for information regarding how to become a school volunteer.

SOURCE: Board of Education Minutes

DATE: July 3, 2006 – September 21, 2015 – August 21, 2023