

# **Stuttgart Junior High School**

## **Family and Community Engagement Plan**

### **2021-2022**

Stuttgart Junior High School (SJHS) understands the importance of involving families, and the community as a whole, in promoting higher student achievement and general good will between the district and those it serves. Therefore, the district shall strive to develop and maintain the capacity for meaningful and productive family and community engagement.

**Stuttgart Junior High School will use various communication strategies to provide additional information to parents and to increase parental involvement in supporting classroom instruction.**

- The district's automated telephone messaging system will be used to remind parents of upcoming family and community activities and upcoming meetings.
- The social media tools, Facebook, Instagram, and Smore, will be used to communicate information to parents and community via acceptance to those private groups.
- Through implementation of PBIS (Positive Behavior and Intervention Systems), family communication will be available on the PBIS Rewards portal and phone app.
- Families are provided interim reports halfway through each nine week period and report cards will be provided every nine weeks by classroom teachers.
- SJHS principal sends letters to parents informing them of the school's status, what that status means, and informing parents of their rights as outlined by policies established by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.
- Stuttgart Junior High School staff utilizes eSchool for recording student attendance and grades. Parents will be provided a login by the student's homeroom teacher for the Home Access Center to monitor the student's progress.
- The school's principal will hold an annual Parental Involvement Meeting to give parents a report of the state of the school and to review what students will be learning, how students will be assessed, what parents should expect from their child's education, and how a parent can assist and make a difference in his child's education.

**Stuttgart Junior High School will hold meetings and activities throughout the year to increase family and community engagement and build staff and family capacity to engage in these types of efforts.**

- Instruction is provided by classroom teachers to parents on how to incorporate developmentally appropriate learning activities in the home environment.
- Two parent/teacher conferences are held each year. One during the first nine weeks period and the second during the third nine weeks period.
- SJHS staff sponsor and encourage families to attend an open house, PTO meetings, and other activities related to their student's academics.
- Teachers meet with parents to explain performance assessments and share grade level expectations.
- In the spring, a meeting is held by the SJHS counselor to explain the course offerings at the Stuttgart High School for current 8th grade students.
- Families and community members are welcome to visit the school through opportunities for service with the PTO.
- SJHS conducts an awards assembly each semester to showcase students achievements.

- Stuttgart Junior High School principal conducts an annual Title I Meeting for families of the students who participate in the Title I program.
- Stuttgart Junior High School, Park Avenue Elementary, and Stuttgart Junior High School principals and counselors work cooperatively to provide a smooth transition from one school to the next by raising parental awareness of procedures and related activities. The school hosts special orientation programs for parents and students to help with the transition. Parents will have the opportunity to tour the facility prior to the beginning of a new school year. (e.g What's Next Night at SJHS for incoming 7th grade students).
- Stuttgart Junior High School principal and the Stuttgart School District Professional Development Committee shall require no fewer than two (2) hours of professional development for teachers designed to enhance the understanding of effective parental involvement strategies and no fewer than three (3) hours of professional development for administrators designed to enhance understanding of effective parental involvement strategies and the importance of administrative leadership in setting expectations and creating a climate conducive to parental participation every four (4) years according to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

**Stuttgart Junior High School will provide information to families about volunteer opportunities.**

- A Family Volunteer Survey will be included at Open House by the Family and Community Engagement Coordinator. Parents will be encouraged to complete this document which will include a list of various volunteer opportunities and time preference for their participation.
- The Family and Community Engagement Coordinator will disaggregate the collected data by grade level and place the information in a Volunteer Notebook that will be housed in a central location to facilitate easy access to this information for the faculty.

**Stuttgart Junior High School will work with families to create a School/Parent Compact.**

- School staff, parents, and students will develop a school-parent-student 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. All stakeholders will sign the compact.

**Stuttgart Junior High School will provide opportunities for parents to be involved in the development, implementation, and evaluation of the schoolwide 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.**

- Family and community members are invited and encouraged to assist school personnel on a variety of committees; such as the Building Level Committee, Family and Community Engagement Committee chaired by the Family and Community Engagement Coordinator, and ones that review the Stuttgart Public Schools Parent/Student Handbook chaired by the principal.
- The principal shall enable the formation of a Parent Teacher Organization that will foster family and community involvement within the school.

**Stuttgart Junior High School will provide additional resources for parents.**

- A Family Resource Center is located at SJHS and contains parenting books, magazines, and other materials regarding responsible parenting. Families will have the opportunity to check out materials and to use the computer to research best practices for families as it relates to their students' school lives. The Family Resource Center shall be maintained by the school counselor and Family and Community Engagement Coordinator.
- To promote and support responsible parenting, the principal shall authorize the purchase, as funds are available, for parenting books, magazines, and other informative materials regarding responsible parenting through the Family Resource Center. The purchased items will be advertised to families, and they are given the opportunity to borrow those materials for their review.
- Resources will include in the school's policy handbook the school's process for resolving parental concerns, including how to define a problem, whom to approach first, and how to develop solutions that have been developed by the School Handbook Committee.
- The principal of SJHS will designate one certified staff member to serve as the building's Family and Community Engagement Coordinator.

**Stuttgart Junior High School will engage parents in the evaluation of family and community engagement involvement efforts.**

- A Family Satisfaction Survey will be distributed during the Parent/Teacher Conferences in February by the Family and Community Engagement Coordinator.
- SJHS Family and Community Engagement Committee will use the results and review of the Family Satisfaction Survey to plan the family and community engagement activities for the upcoming school year.

**Successes:**

- Family Resource Center updated
- Staff Development in Positive Behavior Intervention Systems

**Barriers were addressed by:**

- ESL Liaison for Interventions and Communication
- Dyslexia Interventionist
- Parent Communication through phone messaging, paper newsletters, virtual newsletters (posted on social media, emailed, and posted to school website)
- Social Media (Facebook) used to communicate with videos, informative posts and newsletters, and celebrations.
- Home internet access provided throughout the town with the use of buses outfitted with hot spots.
- Hot spots were checked out to students as needed.
- Google Classroom instruction/Digital Resources.
- Home access for iReady Reading
- Home access to iReady Math
- Home access to eBooks through a virtual library.

**Stuttgart Junior High School  
Family and Community Engagement Committee**

Sarah Strabala - School Librarian (Chairperson)

Melinda Collier - Teacher

Dennis Ragland - Teacher

Kim Lisko - Counselor

Sarah Leech - Parent

## Parental Involvement Activities

### August 2021

- Open House - All Staff
- Lunch with Leadership - Leadership Team

### September 2021

- PTO Meeting -PTO President and Amy Marek
- Parent Teacher Conferences - All Staff

### October 2021

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### November 2021

- PTO Meeting - PTO President and Amy Marek

### December 2021

- SJHS Spelling Bee - Sarah Strabala

### January 2022

- Award Ceremony - Amy Marek, Kim Lisko, and Classroom Teachers

### February 2022

- PTO Meeting - PTO President and Amy Marek
- Parent Teacher Conferences - All Staff

### March 2022

- Maker Faire(GPC)- District wide: Tia Brickey, Tawnya Herring, Sarah Strabala, Carol Jo Lambert, and Classroom Teachers.

### April 2022

- PTO Meeting - PTO President and Amy Marek
- Course Registration Informational meeting (possibly by Zoom) - Lisko

### May 2022

- What's Next Night? - Amy Marek, Kim Lisko, and volunteer staff.
- Field Day - All staff
- Award Ceremony - Amy Marek, Kim Lisko, and Classroom Teachers

\*\*The committee is in the process of discussing adding a Cultural Fair to our list of activities.

## **Allocation of Family and Community Engagement Monies**

Colored Paper - 100.00 - Amazon

Ink Cartridge - 200.00 - Amazon

Smore Online Newsletter Account - 80.00

Award Certificates -50.00 - Amazon

Family and Community Engagement Books for the Resource Room- 200.00 - Amazon