

GRAYSON COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

(Legally Required for Title I Schools and Best Practice for Non-Title I Schools)

DEFINITION OF PARENT

The legal definition of a “parent” is a parent, stepparent, or foster parent of a student or a person who has legal custody of a student pursuant to a court order and with whom the student resides.

For the purposes of this policy we will use the term “parent” to encompass all diverse family situations.

COMMITMENTS

We commit to:

1. Sharing clear information about each student’s progress with parents.
2. Offering practical suggestions to parents on how they can support student learning at home.
3. Providing activities designed to successfully engage families in their children’s learning, as appropriate.
4. Making representative parents and community members full partners in our decision-making.
5. Facilitating the involvement of our military families, parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children.
6. Seeking and supporting adult volunteers to work with and inspire our students, as well as making every effort when legally appropriate to accommodate the involvement of adults other than parents who are already involved in a student’s life.

We will honor these commitments through a school-parent compact. During an annual meeting with parents, we will review the compact with parents, ask for input and then revise, if necessary, the compact.

SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

Our students’ parents, families, extended families, students themselves, as well as our local community are all considered partners who share responsibilities for high student academic achievement. Following are the responsibilities for the school, the parents, and the students:

SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES

GCMS will:

1. Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in an effective, supportive, and safe learning environment that enables the students to meet Kentucky’s academic standards.
2. Make available on a regular basis information on our programs and the content students will learn each year.
3. Assign homework in accordance with our homework policy.
4. Send home information on student progress on a regular basis. Specifically we will provide formal reports every 4 1/2 weeks.
5. Hold parent-teacher conferences during which this compact will be discussed as it relates to the individual student’s achievement. Opportunities (where appropriate) will be provided for the

- student to participate actively in sharing information on his or her progress with his or her parents during these conferences.
6. Provide parents reasonable access to staff. The email addresses and telephone extensions of their child's teachers will be provided to parents to promote communication. Staff will always be available to parents by appointment for face-to-face conferences.
 7. Send home newsletters at least four times a year that include information on ways families can help students learn. The first newsletter will contain a copy of this policy.
 8. Support an active Parent Teacher Association or Organization.
 9. Provide a variety of opportunities for parents and family involvement in school activities including but not limited to:
 - Observing their child's classroom activities.
 - Tutoring.
 - Assisting with classroom activities that require more than one adult.
 - Preparing materials, mailings, refreshments, and other items needed for family and community involvement.
 - Serving on one of our decision-making committees.
 - Joining our parent teacher organization and participating in its efforts to strengthen our school.
 - Volunteering along with other concerned members of our community in other areas as needed.
 10. Ensure that all adult volunteers working in our school and with our students are subject to board policy and state law regarding criminal record checks, as applicable.

The Family Resource/Youth Service Center will share responsibility for student achievement by:

- Surveying families at least once a year to learn what services and activities would most help them support their children as learners.
- Offering a well-planned, well-publicized menu of activities and programs to meet those needs.

PARENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Parents are asked to:

1. Monitor attendance.
2. Become familiar with and support the school and individual classrooms' homework policies and show interest with questions about and comments on the schoolwork their children bring home.
3. Make sure homework is completed.
4. Assist their child with time management.
5. Participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to their child's education.
6. Stay in close communication with teachers and the school about their child's education by promptly reading all notices and surveys from the school or the school district and responding if necessary.
7. To the extent possible, volunteer, serve on the school council or a committee, attend School-Based Decision Making Council meetings, and comment on draft policies and plans as they are made available.