

## **School Parent and Family Engagement Plan**

**School Name:**

Benton Middle School

**Facilitator Name:**

Ashley McKell

**Plan Review/Revision Date:**

September 12, 2019 / January 14, 2020

**District Level Reviewer, Title:**

Kim Anderson, Assistant Superintendent

**District Level Approval Date:**

**Committee Members, Role:**

Ashley McKell, Facilitator/Assistant Principal

Pasley Butler, School Counselor

Anna Grace Davis, Teacher

Judy Pierce, Teacher

Requita Spinks, Parent/Community Member

Lindsey Cobb, Parent/Community Member

Brian Tindall, Parent/Community Member

Olivia Judkins, Student

**Contact Ashley McKell about questions or concerns.**

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## **1: Jointly Developed**

*Parents will be involved in the development of the school parent and family engagement plan, as well as in the planning, review, and improvement of parent and family engagement programs.*

- Three Benton Middle School parents, one student, two teachers, one counselor, and one administrator were selected to represent all the parents/guardians of students at Benton Middle School. Their voices will be a valuable part of developing the Family Engagement Plan for Benton Middle School.
- The parents on the committee will meet a minimum of three times during the school year to evaluate the plan. The first meeting will take place early fall to review the plan. The second meeting will occur midway through the school year to update any part of the plan that may need adjusting. Finally, the last meeting will take place at the end of the school year to make improvements for the upcoming school year.
- The opinions and ideas of the school parents will be considered and possibly implemented if the committee deems it valuable to the plan.
- Any comments the school parents recommend and perceive valuable to the plan yet are not accepted to the plan can be submitted to the district for further discussion.
- Additional meetings can be scheduled to develop or evaluate the plan if requested by the parents.

## **2: Annual Title I Meeting**

*BMS will hold the Annual Title I meeting to inform parents of the requirements of Title I and the school's participation as well as the parents' rights to be involved. The Annual Title I meeting should not be used to ask for parent input, but provided as an opportunity to disseminate information and distribute copies of the revised parent and family engagement policy.*

- Benton Middle School will hold an annual Title I meeting in August 2020 for parents/guardians during open house. Parents/Guardians will be informed of the requirements of Title I and how Benton Middle School is participating in the program. This meeting will only be used for informative purposes regarding Title I. This is an opportunity for parents/guardians to see how Benton Middle School is helping students who are behind or at risk of falling behind with the purpose of bridging the gap between low-income students and

other students. This includes, but not limited to, extra instructional time and support for students; additional teachers and paraprofessionals to reduce class sizes; specialized instructional methods and purchases of teaching equipment and supplies; and after school and summer programs that extend and reinforce the school's regular curriculum. In addition to the above, parents/guardians will be informed of their rights under Title I.

### **3: Communications**

*The parent and family engagement policy will be distributed to parents and the school will communicate with parents including information about how the school will provide information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities to parents in a format, to the extent practicable, and in a language that parents can understand.*

- Benton Middle School's Family Engagement Plan will be available to families and the community on BMS's website by August 1 each year. Parents/guardians will be allowed to contact the parent facilitator regarding questions. Contact information is listed on the first page of the Family Engagement Plan.
- The plan is designed to be written in an understandable and uniform format. It can be provided in another language if requested.
- An informational packet will be available annually to parents/guardians in paper format and on Benton Middle School's website. The packet will include the following:
  - \*A Description of the Parent and Family Engagement Plan
  - \*Recommended Roles
  - \*Ways for family to get involved in a variety of roles
  - \*Survey regarding volunteer interests
  - \*Schedule of activities planned throughout the school year
  - \*Regular, two-way, and meaningful system for parents/teachers to communicate.
- A summary of the Family Engagement Plan is available on the BMS webpage as well as in the student handbook.
- Neighborhood meetings or meetings at Gene Moss building or PDC building as well as offering meetings directly after school or at a later time that is better suited for working parents.

## ***4: School-Parent Compact***

*BMS collaborate in order to jointly develop with parents a school-parent compact.*

- Parents/guardians, the entire school staff, and students will share responsibility for improved student academic achievement by helping in the following ways.
  - Encourage your child to do his/her best in school.
  - Praise your child's successes.
  - Provide a reasonable hour for bedtime.
  - Review notes, emails, and letters sent home.
  - Encourage a discussion with your child regarding his/her day.
  - Let your child assist you with daily tasks.
  - Limit time spent on TV, Video Games, Computer, Music, Playing until school work is completed.
  - Allow child time to experience outdoor activities.
  - Give your child chores and responsibilities at home and check to see that they were completed.
  - Check on your child's grades weekly through Home Access Center and when necessary with your child's teachers. If internet is not available please let the school counselor know so that they may print out the grades to send home.
  - Family time at dinner with no technology.
  - Reasonable cut off times at night for technology.
  - Ensure that blended families are receiving communication and all are on board with the expectations.
  - Provide your child with needed school supplies.
  - Encourage your child to work hard and stick to a task even when it seems difficult.
  - Ensure that your child is at school each day and on time (plan shopping trips, haircuts, appointments, and vacations after school hours.)
  - Volunteer your time in the classroom on days when you are not at work.
  - Talk positively about your school and teachers, especially when your child is present.
  - Provide real life math experiences (making purchases, using allowance, counting money, keeping score at a sports event, etc.)
  - Establish a study time and quiet space at home in a certain location and monitor your child while they study.
  - Encourage your child to read for at least 30 minutes each day.
  - Provide support so that parents and students are maintaining proper nutrition.
- Parents/guardians and teachers will have regular two-way, meaningful communication through:
  - Parent/Teacher Conference (Fall and Spring)

- Phone Calls
  - Emails
  - Letters Home
  - Home Access Center (HAC)
  - Remind
  - Google Classroom
  - Class Dojo
  - In person
  - (4 ½ weeks progress reports, 9 weeks report cards, HAC access)
- Benton Middle School will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the challenging State academic standards by conferences, remediation, tutoring, and sending home ACT Aspire test results.
  - School staff will be encouraged to use volunteer surveys to compile a volunteer resource book which includes interests and availability of volunteers. This book will be available to teachers to help select volunteers for various classroom needs and events.
  - Parents/guardians have the opportunity to be involved in a variety of ways, such as
    - Parent/Teacher Organization
    - Jumpstart for students and parents
    - Schedule Pickup
    - Open House
    - Annual Report to the Public Meeting
    - Annual Title One Meeting
    - School Dances
    - Backpack Program
    - Teacher snacks provided during testing week
    - Veteran's Day Assembly
    - Health Fair
    - Handbook Committee
    - Family Engagement Committee
    - Rookie Camp
    - 7th Grade Athletics
    - Band and Choir Concerts
    - Fine Arts Showcase
    - Peanut butter drive
    - Parent Volunteer Opportunities through school clubs (Chess, Elf, Yea Team, Central High Trip, Field Day, Immigrant Day, Flu Shot Day, Hearing and Vision Screening, Band and Choir Competitions, Athletics, iReady Incentive Programs, Christmas Assistance Program, Band Booster Club, and the Annual Chili Cook-off)

## **5: Reservation of Funds**

*If the Benton School District receives more than \$500,000 in Title I allocation, then it must reserve 1 percent for parent and family engagement activities. A minimum of 90% of that 1% must go to the schools, with priority given to high-need schools. If BMS is allocated a percentage of the 1 percent, it will share with parents the budget for parent and family engagement activities and programs as well as how parents will be involved in providing input into how the funds are used.*

- During the Report to the Public parents will be given information on the Title one funds. Surveys will be available online to gain input on how funding should be spent for parent and family engagement activities.

## **6: Coordination of Services**

*BMS will coordinate with other organizations, businesses, and community partners to provide additional support and resources to families.*

- Community resources will be utilized in our instructional program when feasible. Community members and resources will join together to enrich our students' experiences.
- College and Career ready resources and organizations, parent resource centers, or other programs that implement and support parents/guardians to fully participate will be encouraged.
- Benton Middle School will promote and support responsible parenting through parent links on the Benton Middle School website, modeling responsibilities, giving opportunities for the child to make choices, encouraging good behaviors and habits, establishing rules and following through with consequences.
- Benton High School Teacher Cadets will provide an example as alumni to Benton Middle School. These students can be used to advise, guide, and mentor students, provide ongoing support, and serve as an example of achievement to current students.
- Parent Teacher Organization will be utilized to provide information and needs between parents and teachers. Parents will lead the organization and partner with teachers. They will assist teachers by contributing time and resources to prepare students for academic success. Decisions will be made by all parties that are involved...parents, teachers, and students. Meetings will be posted on the PTO Facebook page, school website, and teacher calendar.
- Benton Middle will engage in other activities that will use community resources to strengthen school programs, practices, and learning. Some examples are the Annual Chili Cook-off, Health Fair, haircuts for students, backpack program, and working with the Saline County Boys and Girls Club as well as local

churches. The activities join together schools, families and the business community in an effort to enrich the experiences of our students.

- Through the continued collaboration and meeting of the Family Engagement committee, we will ensure the plan is both comprehensive and coordinated in our joint effort to support our families.
- The Family Engagement Plan will be incorporated into the School Improvement Plan. Benton Middle School will involve parents in the development of the LEA Title 1 Plan before the PTO for their review/input and requesting that the PTO Executive Committee review and give input into the plan. Benton Middle School will ensure that the school improvement plans build/foster parent leadership capacity.

## **7: Building Capacity of Parents**

*Activities, such as workshops, conferences, classes, online resources, Academic Parent-Teacher Team meetings, equipment and other materials may be necessary to support parents in helping their student's academic success.*

- Parents will be provided various opportunities to be involved with regular meetings such as parent/teacher conferences.
- Materials will be translated into native languages for our ELL population as well as interpreters available during conferences and meetings.
- Parents will receive information via school website or parent resource center with descriptions and explanations of curriculum currently used at BMS.
- Parents will be provided information regarding their students results pertaining to the ACT Aspire and guidance on how to read and interpret those results
- State academic standard descriptions and explanations will be available online for parents as well as in print if requested.
- Benton Middle School will provide assistance and instruction to parents of children served by the school in understanding these topics:
  - ✓ Arkansas Academic Standards:  
<http://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/divisions/learning-services/curriculum-and-instruction>
  - ✓ **ACT Aspire:**  
<https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/state-and-district-solutions/arkansas/aspire.html#interpretation>
  - ✓ **Title I, Part A requirements:**  
<http://dese.ade.arkansas.gov/divisions/public-school-accountability/federal-programs/title-i-part-a>
  - ✓ Strategies parents can use to support their child's academic progress:
    - Show how to log onto and use the school website
    - Show how to log onto and use the school online grade reports, HAC

- o Demonstrate how to use the online school programs, such as iReady, Online textbooks, etc.
- o Review your school philosophy (Encourage exploration and risk-taking, you don't jump in to help every time they get stuck.)
- o Encourage communication between parent/guardian and teachers.
- ✓ Partnering with teachers to support their child's academic achievements
- ✓ Incorporating developmentally appropriate learning activities
- ✓ Use of ADE website and tools for parents [<http://www.arkansased.gov>]
- ✓ Assistance with nutritional meal planning and preparation
- ✓ How parents can be involved in the decisions affecting course selection, career planning ,and preparation for postsecondary opportunities
- ✓ Including role play and demonstration by trained volunteers
- Provide parents with links and instruction on Khan Academy, I -Ready, Newsela, Scholastic, Science Online book, Edulastic, Google Classroom, GoFormative, EdPuzzle
- We will provide links to responsible parenting  
<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/nine-steps.html>