

Hillcrest High School
Parent and Family Engagement Plan

Committee Members:
Beth Maxwell Parent Facilitator
Mickel Smith, Principal
Sharon Oliver, Parent Center Coordinator
Natasha Turner, Teacher
Parents: Heather Nunnally, Andy Durham, Lisa Howard

1: Jointly Developed

- The Hillcrest High School has a parental engagement committee that consists of teachers, administrators, and parents. The members of this team are updated on an annual basis to ensure that all members of the committee are actively involved in the process of reviewing and updating our plan as needed.
- Once per year our engagement plan is given to our parents and they are encouraged to bring concerns, and ideas to the members of the committee.
- Since we are a Schoolwide Title 1 school, all our students are participants and likewise their parents are able to give feedback, and offer suggestions, and help publicize our events through the local Parent/Teacher/Student organization, and the Hillcrest Facebook page that is managed by this group.
- The school will take advantage of community resources, including alumni that are willing to provide advice and support for our school programs and school improvement.
- Parents will be encouraged to provide feedback at anytime and through our parent survey.
- Hillcrest High School parental involvement team works closely with the district team by sharing some members of the parental engagement teams so that there can be a flow of pertinent information and concerns to be addressed at each level.
- If at any time there is a need for additional meetings, other than those that have been scheduled, those will be set up promptly to resolve issues, or to keep everyone informed.

2: Annual Title I Meeting

The annual Title 1 meeting will be held the last Monday of September 2019. During this meeting we will inform parents of the requirements of Title 1, our participation and inform parents of their rights under Title 1.

3: Communications

- The Hillcrest High School parental engagement plan will be made available to families and the local community. Copies will be online, in the offices, and in the parent center. Beth Maxwell (beth.maxwell@eagles1.k12.ar.us) is the Parent facilitator for the school and the district.
- The parental engagement plan is written in an understandable and uniform format. It is written using language that the parents can understand, and is appropriate for the age level of the students we have.

- The informational packet is sent home annually and includes the following: Description of the Engagement plan, list of all teachers, staff, and their respective roles, information about how to get involved, volunteer surveys, The school calendar/activities, information regarding how to be involved in different events and activities throughout the school year, and the system we use for parents and teachers can communicate with each other.
- A summary of the plan is placed as a supplement to the student handbook where each family signs as being aware of the family engagement plan.
- Meeting times and formats are flexible as to encourage more parents to be involved with their student and his/her activities.

4: School-Parent Compact

- The Hillcrest family engagement committee developed a School-Parent Compact which outlines how the parents, staff and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement
- The Hillcrest High School promotes meaningful two-way communication through the following: 2 parent teacher conferences per year and progress reports sent home at the middle and end of each nine weeks. Also staff utilizes apps such as remind 101, email, phone and face to face conferences for announcements and working with particular parents and students. We welcome volunteers and try to utilize the expertise in our families as guest speakers, etc.
- We work together with our families, trying to always focus on what will benefit the student both academically, physically, and emotionally.
- The volunteer surveys that are turned in are compile and can be used as a reference for our staff
- Parents are encouraged to be supporters of their child academically, work with extra-curricular activities and clubs that their students are involved in, are brought in as guest speakers, and also help with fundraising, and the food-for-thought program.

5: Reservation of Funds

The Hillcrest School district does not receive more than \$500,000 and thus have no reserve funds.

6: Coordination of Services

The Hillcrest High School partners with the community resources both the immediate community and in surrounding counties in our instructional program

- Parents are encouraged to take part in programs and activities that the school offers. The school as a parent center with parenting resources. We partner with ETS, Williams Baptist college, BlackRiver Tech, and Military recruitment for our students and parents interested in college. We also partner with UACCB's career center for students taking concurrent credit and working toward college certification. Fafsa and financial aid meetings are held to aid parents and students. We encourage parents to play an active role in the activities and decisions facing their students.
- The parent center has pamphlets and resources to promote responsible parenting

- When possible we utilize alumni of the school to advise and support our academic programs, specifically to make students aware of the diversity of career possibilities.
- The Hillcrest School District and its schools have a parent teacher student organization. Leaders of that organization serve on various committees and aid in planning events that benefit the students of our school
- The family engagement plan is comprehensive in nature and is vital in ensuring that the goals of the school improvement plan are met.

7: Building Capacity of Parents

District-wide Title 1 meeting is held annually in September. The Hillcrest High School is a part of that meeting. We address the each of the following at that time.

- What students will be learning
- How they are assessed
- What parents should expect for their child's education
- How parents can assist and make a difference in their child's education

Other times parents are able to meeting, ask questions, and give feedback are at our 2 parent/teacher conferences per year.

Career planning and college planning meetings are held yearly as well.

Additionally teachers and administrators make themselves available when parents need to reach out.

Information that is available throughout all these planned and unplanned meetings is, but not limited to:

- The high school is part of the New Tech Network, and as such, Project-based learning is our main form of organization of the curriculum. Standards are organized into essential learnings and situations that are authentic, real-world application of their learning.
- Students are scored not only on content knowledge, but collaborative skills, communication skills and work ethic.
- Parents are provided copies of their students state assessments (or alternate assessments) and guidance on how to read them, and what that means regarding their student's academic readiness.
- Financial aid and Fafsa nights are held to help students and parents be prepared for needed information and documents for post-secondary education.
- Individual Scheduling meetings help parents understand what is required of their student and how courses influence their college and or work experience after high school

Materials and resources are available to help both students and their parents to improve a students achievement, school attendance, appropriate use of technology, and responsible parenting.

8: Building Capacity of School Staff

- The Hillcrest High School teachers and administrators complete the 2 hour required parental involvement professional development session to enhance understanding of effective parental involvement strategies.
- All teachers support personnel, administrators and other staff understand and value the role that parents play contributing and in assisting student learning.
- Our faculty and staff view parents as equal partners and work hard to reach out and communicate with our parents. Information is made available a practical and easy to understand format
- We attempt to build ties with our parents and community to aid in the support of our academic and extracurricular programs, and welcome feedback and ideas from our parents and community.
- Our handbook states our policy for resolving parent concerns. This policy is also placed in our informational packets.

9: Building Capacity - Discretionary

- The Hillcrest District Parent Advisory Group helps to advise the school on all matters related to parental involvement in Title 1, Part A programs.
- Conference times are flexible and the school allows a teacher to see parents individually at a times convenient for the parent, by providing coverage for classes when needed. We also allow parents to bring their children when needed.