



School, Parent, and Family Engagement Plan 2020 - 2021

Andrea Moore, Principal
Robert Fox, Assistant Principal
Brandi Newsom, Assistant Principal

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Mission Statement

The parents, staff, and administration at the Paragould Primary School are committed to continuous improvement grounded in the belief that we must work collaboratively to educate every child so that they will reach their highest potential. Students will master the curriculum in a family atmosphere that embraces a culture of caring. Challenging programs, in a safe, organized and stimulating environment, will inspire all students to reach our high academic and behavior expectations.

The health and safety of our students, visitors, employees and the community are a top priority in the Paragould School District. To keep in line with the latest guidance and direction from the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) and Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) we will start the school year with restricted visitation to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. We will continue our commitment to assist families with parenting resources, communicate about school programs and student progress, recruit family volunteers, involve families with learning activities at home, include families in school decision-making, and collaborate with the community to coordinate resources and services by utilizing technology to provide timely communication, connecting students, teachers, administrators, parents, and patrons. Visitor restrictions will be evaluated on an ongoing basis under the guidance of experts and in consultation with state and city public health officials. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Jointly Developed

The Paragould Primary welcomes parent/family participation in the education of their children. Research has shown that parent involvement results in increased student success, increased parent and teacher satisfaction, and overall improvement in the school climate. Our School, Parent, and Family Engagement Plan outlines a variety of opportunities for parents and families to be involved and informed in their child's education.

- Parent representation on Home/School Collaboration Professional Learning Team
 - School improvement teams will set the direction that the school takes based on the overall district vision and specific needs established at the school. The teams will include various stakeholders that represent the interests of Paragould Primary School. These stakeholders' input will provide guidance for school improvement. The purpose of parent participation on advisory committees is to maintain open lines of communication between parents, community leaders, staff, and administration. Parent participation on this committee will allow them to play an active role in the decision making process and the development of the school improvement plan as well as the School, Parent, and Family Engagement Plan.
 - The Home/School Collaboration Committee will conduct an annual review of the effectiveness of the school parental involvement policy as well as the School, Parent, and Family Engagement Plan. In addition, the committee will be given the opportunity to analyze parent survey data collected at the beginning of the year, evaluate effectiveness of existing programs and activities, and make recommendations for improvement regarding the parental involvement policy as well as the School, Parent, and Family Engagement Plan. An annual parent activity evaluation report will be shared with parents, staff, and the community.
 - Additional meetings will be scheduled if requested by parents.
- School will enable the formation and maintenance of the PTO.
 - Our PTO meets each month to plan fundraisers, discuss concerns, plan upcoming events, encourage parental involvement, and coordinate parent volunteers.

Annual Title I Meeting

- Annual Title I Meeting
 - A stand alone Title I Meeting will be conducted on September 10, 2020, to inform parents, and the surrounding community, of strategies that have been put in place to address academic and behavior expectations. Information will be provided in such areas as national, state, and local education goals, including parents' rights as defined in Title I, Part A. A description and explanation of the curriculum for each grade level is also provided.

- Additional meetings to discuss this information will be scheduled if requested by parents.
- If the Title I Schoolwide Plan is not satisfactory to parents, their comments will be submitted to the district.

Communications

- Parent Center
 - The Paragould Primary has a parent center coordinator. Ms. Amy Castleberry works diligently with parents to provide for student needs. Ms. Castleberry may be contacted by phone at (870) 240-2201, or by e-mail at acastleberry@paragouldschools.net.
- Informational Packets
 - Information packets are sent home at the beginning of the year. These packets contain the district parental community involvement policy, school parental community involvement policy, a survey for volunteer interests, recommended roles for parents/teachers/students and school, suggestions of ways parents can become involved in their child's education, the school calendar of events that includes parental involvement activities planned for the year, information regarding the systems that will be used to allow parents and teachers to communicate, parent/teacher conference dates, telephone numbers, website information, and information related to the parent resource center.
- Postcards are sent home to each child and his or her family before school starts.
 - At the beginning of each school year, teachers at the Paragould Primary will send postcards to the students that will be in their classroom. The postcards provide parents with background information regarding the teacher as well as information related to the first Parent Involvement Meeting scheduled the week before school starts.
- District RAM Channel
 - The district RAM channel provides the community with news and information about the school, emergency messages, curriculum programming and more.
- Nicky Folders
 - Nicky folders are a useful tool for keeping student work organized and tidy. Each folder has a pocket in the front for work that is to be sent home and pocket in the back for work that is to be returned to the teacher. This serves as a daily communication tool between school and home.
- School Website
 - Our school website was created to both educate and inform the public. It serves as a powerful communication tool used to publicize our goals, accomplishments, activities, and services. Intended audiences include students, parents, prospective parents, employees, prospective employees, and the community at large.

Information such as the School, Parent, and Family Engagement Plan, important dates, curriculum, and student accomplishments can be found on the school website. The web address is <http://paragould.k12.ar.us>. Click on the Paragould Primary link to access the school's information.

- Monthly School Newsletter
 - This newsletter is designed to educate and inform the Paragould Primary community of our goals, activities, and services. Intended audiences include students, parents, employees, and the community at large. The newsletter is published on the school's Facebook page and sent home with students each month.

School-Parent Compact

- School-Parent Compact
 - The School-Parent Compact will be jointly developed with parents and school staff. For the 2020-2021 school year, two meetings have been scheduled where the School-Parent Compact will be discussed: September 10, 2020 and January 21, 2021. The School-Parent Compact addresses the importance of two-way, meaningful communication and is designed to acknowledge school and parent responsibilities in maintaining a partnership to help students achieve challenging state academic standards.
- Volunteering
 - Information will be collected from parents regarding their expertise and areas of interest in terms of volunteering at school. A volunteer resource book will then be provided to teachers listing the interests and availability of volunteers.
 - Volunteer opportunities
 - Field trips – volunteers are needed to assist teachers on field trips.
 - Library/Book Fair – volunteers are needed to assist the librarian with the daily operation of the library, parent center, and book fair activities.
 - Parent Center
 - Literacy and Math Nights – these trainings include both academic and behavioral demonstrations from trained volunteers.
- Parent Involvement Activities
 - The Paragould Primary will coordinate parental involvement activities with those of other programs in the area to maximize involvement within the community.
*All parent involvement materials can be provided in the student's native language by request.

Reservation of Funds

- Home/School Collaboration
 - Parents on our Home/School Collaboration Committee take part in the planning and implementation of our family engagement events, such as our Literacy Nights

and our Math night. They help to decide on the distribution of Title I funds needed for each event.

- School-Parent Compact
 - At our initial School-Parent Compact meeting, the parent facilitator Mrs. Amy Castleberry, reviews the items available to parents in our Parent Center. Parents are then invited to request or suggest additional materials needed.
 - During our 2nd School-Parent Compact, scheduled for January 21, 2020, parents are invited to discuss how Title I funds are allocated.

Coordination of Services

- Literacy and Math Nights
 - Literacy Night(s) will be scheduled throughout the year to provide instruction to parents on how to incorporate developmentally appropriate learning activities in the home environment. This training may include activities such as demonstrations from the Paragould Primary faculty, a Brian Kinder story book concert, and representatives from the community demonstrating ways to embrace literacy at home. In addition to Literacy Night events, the Paragould Primary faculty and staff are committed to providing other activities, as deemed necessary, to help a parent assist in his or her child's learning.
 - A Math Night will be scheduled to provide instruction to parents on how to incorporate developmentally appropriate learning activities in the home environment. As part of our Math Night celebration, the Paragould Primary will integrate student art projects into the evening activities. The math training may include demonstrations from the Paragould Primary faculty and family-centered games. In addition to Math Night activities, the Paragould Primary faculty and staff are committed to providing other activities, as deemed necessary, to help a parent assist in his or her child's learning.
- Parent Resource Center
 - The purpose of this resource center is to make up-to-date parenting information, such as parenting books and magazines, available to interested persons. Handouts and informational materials from local community organizations are also available. Our parent resource center is filled with tools to assist parents as they work to help their child succeed. Items may be borrowed at no cost to parents.
- Partners in Education
 - Our school has partnered with various businesses within our community to provide students with further enrichment opportunities and resources. Our current Partners in Education are Families, Inc, First National Bank, The Greenbrier Companies, Inc, and the Junior Auxiliary of Paragould.

Building Capacity of Parents

- The First Parent Involvement Meeting (formerly referred to as Open House)

- This event allows parents to get an overall view of expectations throughout the year by both the principal and the classroom teacher. Our program will begin with a presentation in the gymnasium. After the presentation, parents will be able to meet the classroom teacher. After meeting the classroom teacher parents are free to tour other areas in the school including the library, art room, and music room.
- Report cards sent home at the end of each quarter.
 - Report cards are given at the end of each week following the completion of each nine weeks marking period. Students are expected to take their report cards home and give them to their parents who sign and return them to the teacher.
- Parent / Teacher Conferences, September 17, 2020: 1:00-7:00 pm, and February 11, 2021: 1:00-7:00 pm.
 - Parent teacher conferences allow for yet another way for parents and teachers to form an important partnership. Parents are strongly encouraged to visit the school and schedule additional conferences (in person, via phone, or online) as needed. During our conferences, faculty will discuss students' current academic progress, state assessment scores, and interpretation of those scores.
 - The school's process for resolving parental conflict is contained in the parent-student handbook.
- Seminars
 - Seminars will be conducted to inform parents of students about how to be involved in decisions, to provide instruction to parents on how to incorporate developmentally appropriate learning activities in the home environment, and to engage in activities to help parents assist in their child's learning.
- Newsletters
 - Each edition of our monthly newsletters feature three articles from the Parent Institute. These articles provide timely reminders, recommendations, and strategies in becoming an effective parent, promoting the educational standards at home, and fostering family engagement.

Building Capacity of School Staff

- Professional Development for Staff
 - In the 2014-2015 school year, and every fourth school year thereafter, each educator shall be required to have two (2) hours of professional development designed to enhance understanding of effective parent involvement strategies. In the 2014-2015 school year and every fourth school year thereafter, each administrator shall be required to have two (2) hours of professional development designed to enhance understanding of effective parent involvement strategies and the importance of administrative leadership in setting expectations and creating a climate conducive to parent participation.