

Wilbur D. Mills University Studies High School
Parent Involvement/Family and Community Engagement Plan
2020-2021 School Year

In accordance with the Arkansas Department of Education Rules Governing Parental Involvement Plans (Act 319)

This plan was created with the help of parents, teachers, and District employees to ensure the availability of resources and information for all Mills High School parents, guardians, and community stakeholders.

Objectives:

At Mills University Studies High School we will:

- engage in effective, on-going two-way communication that values and includes stakeholders in shared-decision making reflective of our school demographics.
- develop professional partnerships with a variety including alumni, elected officials, business entities, and other educational organizations for the purpose of wrap around services needed for the school community.
- provide an open and safe forum that serves as a central location for community events.
- establish trusting relationships that foster student engagement and overall achievement.

1.0 Contact and Information

1.01 In order to increase parent involvement school-wide, the Mills University Studies High School Comet Participation Team (PTO), will establish monthly contact with parents via newsletters via Thrillshare.

Parents will update the school's registrar, Mrs. Angela Nichols, at Mills Middle at phone 501-234-5266 or email anichols7097@pcssd.org

A. The newsletter will inform parents of engagement opportunities and necessary information about events taking place at the school, including, but not limited to, instructional priorities sports, academic competitions, fine arts performances, and club activities.

B. The parent communication will be done by our journalism students, secretaries, and other stakeholders.

- C. The other communication shall include be virtual meetings for parents and partners to collaborate concerning students' and family needs specific to educational initiatives such as ACT, AVID, PreAP, Advanced Placement, DRIVEN, and other opportunities to learn and serve in any capacity at Mills High school.
- 1.02 Apptegy/Thrillshare will be a tool utilized to contact parents about events and meetings. Parents will be notified a minimum of two (2) times for all school-wide events via text and phone calls.
 - 1.03 The Mills High School Website will be utilized to share information with parents and stakeholders. We will also celebrate staff, students, and district accomplishments. Parental Engagement events and meetings can be found under the PTO tab.

2.0 PTO Meetings

- 2.01 Comet Participation Team (PTO)/Senior Moms and Supporters meetings will take place on the campus of Mills High School the once per quarter or as needed. The meetings will begin at 5:30 pm and last no longer than one (1) hour, unless a meeting of a special committee will take place directly thereafter. These meetings will have an agenda with intended results and outcomes. Action steps and goals will be specifically documented in our school improvement plan through qualtrics.
- 2.02 The parent teacher organization/Senior Moms and supporters meetings will serve as collaborative (co-laboring meetings) to plan steps for school improvements around PBIS, Restorative Justice, Instruction, Interscholastic activities.
- 2.03 Parents and teachers involved in our school leadership teams (PTO)/Senior Moms and Supporters will be encouraged to work together to create a safe environment for students and friendly atmosphere for more parents to get involved. For example: Equity and monitoring committee, student voice, PBIS, college readiness, counseling and much more.

3.0 Parent Training

- 3.01 Parents will have four opportunities to receive training or aid in the process of navigating their teens through high school and on to adulthood. These events include, but are not limited to (see attachment)

HAC Training

The Tea Party

High Expectations Yield High Results

Linking Families with Technology to Support Achievement

Providing Resources that Support Families/Fall Parent Awards

STEAM Night

College Seminar

College Fair (Hosted by CTE Dept.)

Transition to Mills High School

Job Fair for students/parents

Panel Discussions on site and virtual options (flexibility)

4.0 Parent Information Center

- 4.01 The Parent Information Center is located in the east corner of the school's Media Center. The center is be equipped with one desktop computer and other literature, a coffee pot, and couch and chairs. The center will provide parents with information regarding tutoring, wellness, next steps, and other pertinent material regarding the high school experience.

5.0 Resolving Parent Concerns

Parental concern is defined as important need to be clarified or met for the success of all Mills University Studies High school students, as well as to support efforts for the overall wellness and safety of the school spirit.

- 5.01 Parents are encouraged to assess the issue as best you can. If it is with a teacher, note that the educational professional should be called or emailed by visiting Mills.pcssd.org . Then go to the left column and click on staff. The contacts for all staff are located there. If the issue is not resolved within 48 hours, see the grade level administrator or counselor depending on the circumstances.

5.02 Solutions for the issues can be vetted in our district handbook Ranging from attendance, make-up policy, credits, and more.

6.0 Ways to Involve Parents

6.01 All teachers are encouraged to solicit the help of parents to volunteer as chaperones and helpers during field trips, games, events, etc.

6.02 Parents are encouraged to participate in shared decision-making opportunities and efforts.

7.0 Activities and Conferences

7.01 The school will host two (2) annual Parental Engagement events; Transitions Day for new students and rising 9th graders and The Comet Meet and Greet (Open House) at the beginning of each school year.

7.02 Parent/Teacher Conference days are set by the District. Faculty and staff are expected to participate in these events. Parents will be notified in a timely manner via call-outs, email, and postings on the District and school websites and social media.

7.03 Additional Parental Engagement activities will include a minimum of two (2) nights; one in the Fall and one in Spring. Participants will be provided with information about testing dates and strategies to assist their students in preparation, activities and organizations operating within the school, anti-bullying and suicide prevention information, as well as many other topics. Refreshments will be served and information will be presented about the next steps to implement school improvement individually and collectively. The FAFSA, Federal Application for Financial Student Aid, will be covered as well.

