

**SMACKOVER HIGH SCHOOL
PARENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN
2020-2021**

Smackover High School recognizes that a student's education is a responsibility shared by the school and family during the entire time the student is in school. To support the goals of Smackover High School to educate all students effectively, the school and parents must work as knowledgeable partners. Although we recognize that parents are diverse in culture, language, and needs, they are an integral component of our school's ability to provide for the educational success of our children. Smackover High School will foster and support active family involvement.

I. Communicating

Communication between home and school is regular, two-way, and meaningful.

- a. Smackover High School shall develop a communication sheet appropriate for the age and grade of the student containing the following information:
 - i. Smackover High School's parent and family engagement plan.
 - ii. Ways for parents to become involved in the school and in their child's education.
 - iii. Family involvement references and resources.
 - iv. A system to allow the parents and teachers to communicate in a regular, two-way, and meaningful manner with the student's teacher and school principal. This will include but is not limited to phone calls, emails, Google Hangout, Facebook, The Buckaroo Blog, or other effective apps.
- b. Smackover High School shall have two parent/teacher conferences per year.
 - i. The fall conference is scheduled for October 8, 2020.
 - ii. The spring conference is scheduled for February 11, 2021.
- c. Smackover High School shall have one CAP conference per year.
 - i. The purpose is to inform students and parents of graduation requirements and to set effective goals for graduation and post-secondary education as well as career planning.
 - ii. The CAP registration will be conducted during the spring 2021.
- d. Smackover High School will schedule an Open House where parents are given an overview of assessments, learning environments, and expectations of classes.
 - i. Open House will be held on Thursday, August 20, 2020, from 5:00-7:00 pm.
- e. Parents will be given an opportunity to have their student's ACT Aspire test results interpreted for them individually with the school counselor.
- f. Two hours of professional development designed to enhance understanding of effective parental involvement strategies will be provided for teachers.
- g. Progress reports and report cards will be sent home regularly.

- h. Teachers will be surveyed to determine methods currently used at each grade level to foster communication with parents. Some apps currently used include Remind, Class Tag, Dojo, and Group Me.

II. Parenting

Parenting skill are promoted and supported.

- a. Smackover High School will provide access to parenting books, magazines, and other informative material regarding responsible parenting.
- b. Parents will be given the opportunity to check out these materials which are located in the high school library and the counselor's office.

III. Student Learning

Parents play an integral role in assisting student learning.

- a. Smackover High School will hold an Open House on Thursday, August 20, 2020.
- b. Teachers will be encouraged to regularly assign interactive homework.
- c. Usernames/passwords will be mailed to parents encouraging weekly monitoring of student grades through the Home Access Center made available by Smackover High School. There will be a tutorial on HAC during parent/teacher conference.

IV. Volunteering

Parents are welcome in the school, and their support and assistance are sought.

- a. The school policies of Smackover High School encourage parents to visit the school.
 - i. Parents may drop off items for their student at the main office.
 - ii. Parents may meet with their student's classroom teacher during school events and during scheduled times.
- b. Smackover High School will publish a volunteer resource book showing the interest and availability of volunteers for school staff use.
 - i. Parents will be surveyed regarding their interest.
 - ii. It will be determined how frequently a volunteer would like to participate including the option of one time per year.
 - iii. Option will be included for those who are available to help at home.
 - iv. The resource book will be used to help match school needs with volunteer interests.
 - v. For the 2020-2021 school year, volunteer opportunities will be limited due to the pandemic.
- c. Smackover High School will print a statement attesting to the school district's commitment to parent involvement and distribute the statements to parents of students.

V. School Decision Making and Advocacy

Parents are full partners in the decisions that affect children and families.

- a. Smackover High School will publish in the school handbook the process for resolving parental concerns, including how to define the problem, whom to approach first, and how to develop solutions,
- b. Smackover High School will include parents on advisory committees of the school.
 - i. Handbook Committee
 - ii. Career and Technical Advisory Committees
 - iii. Family Engagement Committee
 - iv. Indistar Committee

VI. Collaborating with Community

Community resources are used to strengthen schools, families, and student learning.

- a. A newsletter for how parents can foster their child's success will be developed each year and given out to parents at parent/teacher conferences. Communication will be published often on the school social media outlets including the school website, Buckaroo Blog, and Facebook.
- b. Staff members will be encouraged to use the Arkansas Museum of Natural Resources, the Smackover Public Library, and local business and industries to foster learning.
- c. Criteria for college financial aid will be offered as a FAFSA night in both the Fall and Spring.
- d. Smackover High School will foster student participation in community service.
 - i. Life Share Blood Drives
 - ii. Trash pickups
 - iii. Salvation Army's soup kitchen and bell ringing at Christmas
 - iv. Canned food drives
 - v. Smackover Chamber of Commerce activities/programs
- e. The community will be made aware of the Smackover High School website, Facebook page and the Buckaroo Blog.

VII. Evaluation

Smackover High School will support the development, implementation, and regular evaluation of the program to involve parents in the decisions and practices of the school.

- a. Amber Miller, high school counselor, has been designated to serve as the parent involvement coordinator.
- b. The Parent and Family Engagement Committee will review and update the Smackover High School Plan prior to August of each year.