

# ***PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT PLAN HEBER SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL***

*2015-2016*

Heber Springs High School recognizes the responsibility shared by the school and family during the time every child spends in school, and the school wishes to maximize the connection between home and school in providing for the educational success of all students. Furthermore, the school wishes to increase parental engagement to improve student achievement and to encourage a welcoming climate for parents in the school building.

In considering implementing ACT 603 or 2003, ACT 397 of 2009, and Title I requirements, which mandate a written Parental Involvement Plan, Heber Springs High School hopes to build on successful events and policies that are already in place. The following is a description of the components that comprise the school's plan.

## ***INVOLVEMENT OF PARENTS, ALUMNI, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS***

A Parent Action Team will be created each year. This group will be comprised of parents of students in grades 9-12, teachers, alumni, and interested members of the community. The team will meet at least twice annually, in the fall and in the spring, to consider parent involvement issues and volunteer programs, as well as issues of importance to the group. Members will assist in the development of a program to make parents feel welcome, informed, and important as part of the school climate.

## ***IMPLEMENTATION OF A VOLUNTEER PLAN***

A survey will be taken during CAP conferences, asking parents to share their interests and talents. Following these surveys, a Resource File will be created. Volunteers will be utilized to provide

assistance requested by teachers and to support further development of the Parental Involvement Plan.

### ***AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES, SUCH AS BOOKS AND MAGAZINES***

Materials of interest to parents will be housed in two places within the Heber Springs High School. First, some materials will be placed in the media center. These will be available for parents to check out through the library. Second, the school offers a Parent Center, housed in the outer office of the Guidance Offices. These materials will also be available for Parents to take and keep.

### ***POLICIES***

School policies involving parents visiting the building will encourage parents to come into Heber Springs High School and will provide a welcome atmosphere for them in the school building. These policies will include, but not be limited to: Parent Visitation, Pick-up Procedures, and Classroom Visitation.

### ***FACILITATOR***

Cameron Jernigan, who serves as the High School counselor and holds a current Arkansas teacher's license, will supervise the Parent Involvement Plan.

### ***PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT***

Three hours of staff development for teachers will be provided during the 2015-16 school year, designed to enhance understanding of effective parental involvement strategies.

### ***PLANNED ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS***

The following events will be held throughout the year. Other activities may be added as needed or wanted.

Ninth Grade Orientation will be held before school opens in August,

with a program of activities for the entering students to be run by Administrators and Student Council Members. At the same time, there will be a meeting for parents to answer any questions they may have about procedures at the high school.

At the beginning of school, there will be an Open House held for families of all students. Every effort will be made for the school to be a welcoming, friendly place. Parent volunteers will assist in the reception area, and this time will also be utilized to ask for additional volunteers.

In the fall, the Annual Public Meeting will be held. The meeting will be publicized in the local newspaper. In an effort to support responsible parenting, the Parent Center's offerings will be stressed.

October 13, 2015, the Guidance Department will sponsor College and Career Night, with representatives from ArkAcrao to visit with families. This event is intended for Junior's and Senior's, but other students and parents are welcomed to participate. Mini Financial Aid information sessions will also be offered during the event.

Also in October, Arkansas State University at Heber Springs will host a Bridge to College day for seniors. Students will attend sessions concerning the transition process from high school to post secondary training.

In February, Guidance Counselors will hold individual conferences with parents of juniors to assist in the planning of their senior course choices and their college and career searches. These conferences will be held in the evenings if family schedules require this. These conferences represent the final CAPS conference for each family.

During March, Arkansas State University at Heber Springs will sponsor a Career and Employability Skills Conference for all junior students. Each student will hear presentations about the three areas of career interest.

Also in March CAP conferences for students in grade 8-10 will be held in the new Gym. Each student and parents will have the opportunity to select their courses for the coming year, after visiting with the different departments and clubs at Heber Springs High School.

The JAG program will sponsor the 4<sup>th</sup> annual “Student Summer Job Fair” in late March or April. This provides the students an opportunity to present themselves to area employers for summer job opportunities. 40 plus students found summer employment at this event last year.

In early May, there will be an annual Awards Night for all students. Our parent volunteers will provide lunches for the high school staff throughout the year.

In addition to these events, Heber Springs High School will continue to promote the existing band and athletic booster club activities, as well as FCCLA, FBLA, Student Council, Interact, Beta Club, FFA, and other groups within the school. All of these organizations provide positive experiences for students and families.

The Parental Involvement Committee will be invited to assist in the planning of additional activities that committee members consider valuable for parents in helping their children’s academic performance and achievement.

### ***PLAN EVALUATION***

The Parental Involvement Committee will assist in the evaluation of this plan annually.