

Morrilton Elementary School Parent and Community Involvement

A. Each South Conway County School understands the importance of involving parents and the community as a whole in promoting higher student achievement and general good will between the school and those it serves. Therefore, each South Conway County School shall strive to develop and maintain the capacity for meaningful and productive parental and community involvement that will result in partnerships that are mutually beneficial to the school, students, parents, and the community. To achieve such ends, the school shall work to

1. Involve parents and the community in the development and improvement of Title I programs for the school, Title I plan and the process of school review and improvement;
2. The school will involve parents in the review, improvement and printing of the school's parental involvement policy annually;
3. Title I funds may be used for reasonable and appropriate expenses associated with parental involvement activities that will enable parents to participate in school-related meeting and training sessions;
4. Have a coordinated involvement program where the involvement activities of the school enhance the involvement strategies of other programs such as Head Start, HIPPY, Parents as Partners, Parents as Teachers, ABC, ABC for School Success, area Pre-K programs and Even Start;
5. Explain to parents and the community the State's content and achievement standards, State and local student assessment and how the school's curriculum is aligned with the assessments and how parents can work with the school to improve their child's academic achievement;
6. Provide parents with the materials and training they need to be better able to help their child achieve. The school may use parent resource centers or other community based organizations to foster parental involvement and provide literacy and technology training to parents.
7. Educate school staff, with the assistance of parents, in ways to work and communicate with parents and to know how to implement parent involvement programs that will promote positive partnerships between the school and parents;
8. Keep parents informed about parental involvement programs, meetings, and other activities they could be involved in. Such communication shall be, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand;
9. Find ways to eliminate barriers that work to keep parents from being involved in their child's education. This may include providing transportation and child care to enable parents to participate, arranging meetings at a variety of times, and being creative with parent/teacher conferences;
10. Find and modify other successful parent and community programs to suit the needs of our school;
11. Train parents to enhance and promote the involvement of other parents;
12. Provide, if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their child;

13. Schools will jointly develop the school-parent compact with parents to ensure the compacts outlines how parents, the school staff and students will share in the responsibility for improved student achievement.

B. To help promote an understanding of each party's role in improving student learning, each South Conway County School shall develop a compact that outlines the responsibilities of parents, students, and the school staff in raising student academic achievement and in building the partnerships that will enable students to meet the State's academic standards.

C. Each South Conway County School shall convene as annual meeting, or several meetings at varying times, including parent conferences to adequately reach parents of participating students, to inform parents of the school's participation in Title I, Part A, and the parents right to be involved in those programs.

D. Each South Conway County School shall, at least annually, involve parents in planning, review and improvement of the of the school's Title I, Part A program and parental involvement policy and the joint development of the school-wide programs plan.

E. Provide parents of participating children with timely information about programs under this part and description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure the student progress and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet. Provide opportunities, if requested, for regular meetings during which parents can formulate suggestions and to participate in decisions relating to the education of children and responses to any such suggestions as soon as possible.

F. This policy shall be part of the school's Title I plan and shall be distributed to parents of the district's students and provided, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

Morrilton Elementary School Program Components

Communication

MES will distribute a monthly calendar to parents that is developed with participation of the parent volunteers. It includes school news, a calendar of school activities, parenting tips related to school achievement, and opportunities for parents to volunteer within the school. Contact the school office or your child's teacher at 354-9443 for more information.

Each teacher will send home a weekly newsletter to parents regarding weekly learning goals. A folder containing student papers and work samples at least once each week will be sent home as well. Parents will be asked to sign the folder and send it back to school. Contact your child's teacher at 354-9443.

The school will provide to parents interim reports/report cards every four weeks with information regarding their child's academic progress.

The school will communicate events and policies via the student handbook, school web site, signage at the school entrance, and parent orientation meetings (Open House). Contact Katrina Walls at 354-9443 for more information.

The School Messenger phone service will be used to communicate important information and reminders to parents.

Engaging Parental Involvement Opportunities

Open House/Orientation before school will be August 16, 2011.

Watch D.O.G.S. Dads' Pizza Night will be held Monday, September 12, 2011. Donuts with Dads will be held February 3, 2012.

Bicycle Safety program will be Thursday, October 6, 2011.

Parent/Teacher Conference will be held once each semester (Oct. 18, 2011 and Feb. 21, 2012). Contact your child's teacher or the school office at 354-9443 for more information.

Halloween Parties will be Oct. 31, 2011.

3rd Grade Field Trip at Dardanelle St. Park will be Wednesday, November 2 and Thursday, November 3, 2011.

November 11, 2011, Thanksgiving lunch will be served to 2nd graders and their families.

Winter Carnival will be held December 8, 2011.

MES Christmas program will be held December 13, 2011, at H.B. White Auditorium.

December 16, 2011, Christmas dinner will be served to 3rd graders and their families.

Second grade Christmas parties will be held December 19, 2011.

Parent/Teacher meetings are scheduled throughout the year as called by the PTO.

Third grade graduation will take place in May at H.B. White Auditorium.

End of the year cook out and kickball tournament is successful because of all volunteers. These are yearly events that involve parents, students, and school staff.

Monthly awards assembly is held to promote a climate of high expectations honoring students marked improvements.

MES Art Show will be held in the spring. Every student in the school will have artwork displayed within the school for family and friends to view. Volunteers will meet with the art teacher to organize and hang artwork. Volunteers and school personnel will be available during will be available during the MES Art Show. Contact Katrina Walls 354-9443 before 12:00 Noon for more information.

Artsonia Online Gallery is available for parents to access their student's artwork online. Parents and family are able to leave comments and encouragement for their student artists. Contact Katrina Walls at 354-9443 before 12:00 Noon.

Yearly, the Rice Depot and area residents provided backpacks of food weekly to our students. Area residents and our school counselor will pack and hand out the food each week. Contact Kim Owens at 354-9443.

Volunteer Opportunities

The school and/or PTO will provide a list of volunteer opportunities and solicit ideas for other types of volunteer efforts during orientation of parents. Teacher will explain the requirements to parents and encourage them to become involved in the school. The district Parent Center will maintain student prescriptions written for students having difficulty with developmentally appropriate learning activities at home (such as meal planning, discipline, etc.) Contact Claire Pruitt at 354-9443 for more information.

School-Parent-Compact

The school will develop and adopt the Parental Involvement Plan during the 2011-2012 school year. A committee of parents and school personnel will meet to develop the plan during the fall of 2011.

Opportunities for Parents to Be Involved

A bilingual interpreter will assist in parent teacher conferences and other events to encourage participation by LEP parents. Contact Pam Ussery at 354-9443 for more information.

Parenting Resources

The school counselor will work to coordinate services that address the needs of students and their families, and when appropriate consult sources outside the school that provide such services (such as food banks, counseling agencies, etc.). Contact Kim Owens at 354-9443.

The school on-site Parent Center contains parenting books, videos, and magazines useful for parenting and is located in the school library. Parents may check-out these materials from the library. Contact Betty Patterson at 354-9443 for more information.

The school will distribute information packets each year that includes a copy of the school's parental involvement plan, survey for volunteer interests, recommended roles for parents/teachers/students and school, suggestions of ways parents can become involved in their child's education, parental involvement activities planned for the current year and information about the system that will be used to allow parents and teachers to communicate (notes, phone calls, e-mail...). Parent Center hours are as follows: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 8:00a.m. to 4:00p.m. and Wednesday the center is open 9:30a.m. to 5:00p.m. Contact Claire Pruitt at 354-9485 for more information.

Include in the school's policy handbook the school's process for resolving parental concerns, including how to define a problem, whom to approach first, and how to develop solutions.

The principal of each school district shall designate a certified staff member who is willing to serve as a parent facilitator. Contact Katrina Walls at 354-9443 for more information.