

Dresden Middle School

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN 2023-2024

It is Dresden Middle School's aspiration to encourage families and school staff to engage in regular, meaningful communication regarding student learning, school environment, and educational goals in order to support student success. We strive to provide an atmosphere that is not only conducive to learning, but one that also fosters within our students a desire to attend school regularly and arrive on time. We aim to engage families by offering flexible meeting times, including conducting some meetings via email, phone or face to face. It is our goal to develop opportunities for family engagement by providing access to educational website links and other pertinent training tools that support the enhancement of literacy as well as technology. Specific examples of family engagement opportunities include the following: Fifth Grade Orientation, New Student Orientation, Parent-Teacher Conferences, and Title I Parent Meetings.

Fifth Grade Orientation is held for incoming students and their families. It allows them to become familiar with our school environment and form connections with teachers and staff in hopes of enriching communication. This meeting is scheduled with a flexible time frame to allow more families the opportunity to attend. During this meeting, families are urged to work continuously with teachers to support learning and healthy development for their students, both at home and school. Families are urged to be involved in open communication with teachers to ensure that students are treated fairly and have access to learning opportunities that will support their success. Our teachers and staff believe in the value and contribution of families and work to empower them to be equal partners with equal representation in decisions and programs that ensure student accomplishment.

New students and families are given a tour of our campus and have an opportunity to explore and ask questions concerning the day to day operations of the school building. They also receive information about resources provided through Weakley County Schools, such as contact numbers for the transportation department and school cafeteria.

Dresden Middle School convenes an annual Title I family meeting. This meeting provides information about the families' right to be involved. Families are also given the opportunity to have a voice in how Title I funding should be spent.

Families are given opportunities to learn about programs such as state testing, Section 504 laws, special education, credit recovery and state curriculum. During school registration in August, families receive a packet with information regarding the many opportunities available to students and parents at Dresden Middle School. At times throughout the year, parents are either invited to attend meetings or will receive mailings concerning curriculum, assessment, proficiency levels, etc. Information is displayed in the building. These displays offer information about a variety of topics. A website is maintained with daily announcements, faculty contact information and a school calendar. Social media is also employed to help inform families of upcoming events or to distribute information in a timely manner. During each marking period, families receive a report card which has both grades and a newsletter.

Dresden Middle School offers a wide array of extracurricular activities, such as Beta Club and Weakley County Youth Coalition, that provide opportunities to learn both inside and outside the classroom. Such activities offer expanded learning opportunities, community service, and civic participation for the families and school staff. These activities also allow everyone in the school community to work with community leaders.

Development of Policy:

The Dresden Middle School Parent and Family Engagement Plan was developed by faculty and families and agreed upon by each. In order to encourage all families to participate in the school community, parent group meetings are held periodically to review this policy. Changes are made as revisions are deemed necessary. Names of individuals involved in the development and maintenance of this policy are documented in the school parent and family engagement notebook. This policy is distributed to families and available for examination at the school. In order to increase participation of families with limited English proficiency, translations, to the extent possible, are available upon request. Comments from anyone regarding the parent and family engagement plan are documented and discussed at the review meetings.

Tennessee Parent and Family Engagement Standards

Dresden Middle School believes and embraces the following standards, as adopted by the State Board of Education in 2010.

Standard 1: Welcoming all families into the school community -Families are active participants in the life of the school, and feel welcomed, valued and connected to each other, to school staff, and to what students are learning and doing in class and school.

Standard 2: Communicating effectively -Families and school staff engage in regular, meaningful communication about student learning.

Standard 3: Supporting student success -Families and school staff continuously work together to support students' learning and healthy development both at home and at school and have regular opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and skills to do so effectively.

Standard 4: Speaking up for every child -Families are informed and enabled to be advocates for their own and other children, to ensure that students are treated fairly and have access to learning opportunities that will support success.

Standard 5: Sharing power -Families and school staff are equal partners with equal representation in decisions that affect students and families and together inform, influence and create policies, practices, and programs.

Standard 6: Collaborating with community -Families and school staff work together with community members to connect students, families, and staff to expanded learning opportunities, community services, and civic participation.