

HERALD WHITAKER MIDDLE SCHOOL 2015-2016 PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY

I. Expectations for Parent Involvement

Herald Whitaker Middle School understands the importance of continued parental involvement throughout a child's education. With the cooperative efforts of parents, staff and community, HWMS will provide students with opportunities to develop the skills, values and self-esteem that is necessary for them to become self-sufficient individuals who can function in society. Thus, a written plan for Title I parent involvement is jointly developed with, agreed upon with, and distributed to, all of the parents of participating children. This policy will be annually updated and reviewed as needed by all stakeholders in order to continuously meet parent involvement requirements and the changing needs of our parents, our students, and the school. Documentation of the review will be kept on file in the Title I coordinator's office and in the school.

II. Shared Responsibility

The Parent-School Compact, jointly developed with, agreed upon with, and distributed to all parents, will describe how parents, students, teachers, and the school will share in the responsibility for high student achievement. All stakeholders will annually review the Parent-School Compact as needed.

III. Building Capacity for Involvement

In an effort to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among all stakeholders for student achievement, Herald Whitaker Middle School will:

1. Convene two annual Title I meetings (beginning and ending of year) in collaboration with the district's parent liaison to inform parents of their school's participation in Title I, to explain Title I requirements and the parent's right to be involved. Title I staff will offer tips and school related information so parents may become more involved in their child's education,
2. Provide a flexible number of meetings/trainings/home visits to parents through the Youth Service Center and the district's parent liaison on topics such as math, writing, homework, K-PREP, volunteering, etc. Transportation and childcare for these meetings will be provided as needed.
3. Include parents in the planning, review and improvement of the parent involvement programs through School-Based Decision Making Council, YSC Advisory Council meetings, parent surveys, parent-teacher conferences, and scheduled parent-school meetings,
4. Assist parents in understanding student assessment results, types of academic assessment, school performance results, school curriculum, common core content and student performance standards through newsletters generated by the collaborative efforts of the district's parent liaison and YCS coordinator, school report card, parent-teacher conferences, and Title I meetings,
5. Submit any dissatisfactory comments from parents concerning the schoolwide program plan when the school makes the plan available to the district,
6. Hold "Parent/Teacher Academy" annually for parents of middle and sixth grade students. The academy will host informative sessions pertinent to parent needs and interest,
7. Increase communication through school newsletters, local media, District/School newsletters, school/teacher home pages via the Internet, parent portal, School Messenger Notification System, school television channel 62 and Your News Today Channel 7,
8. Host an orientation for students and parents prior to the first day of school to give student schedules, supply lists, and student handbook,
9. Hold "Back to School Night" hosted by HWMS Youth Service Center during orientation to alleviate some of the financial burden that *back to school* time places on our community members,
10. Use checklist from Commonwealth Institute of Parent Leadership "Is Your School a Welcoming School" to guide discussion with staff at the beginning of each school year,
11. Ensure that all teachers are highly qualified. Parents may request written information regarding the professional qualifications of their child's teachers.

HWMS SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

The staff, students and parents/guardians of *Herald Whitaker Middle School* agree to share the responsibility for establishing high expectations and preparing children to achieve high academic standards. Student success is dependent upon the strength of this partnership and the shared commitment between home and school.

PARENT/GUARDIAN

We, as parents, will support our children's learning in the following ways:

- See that my child attends school regularly, is on time, and has needed supplies,
- Support school staff in maintaining proper discipline,
- Provide a quiet, well-lighted place and specific time for homework and review it regularly,
- Encourage my child's efforts in math, reading and writing and be available for questions,
- Show that I am interested by talking daily to my child about his/her learning experiences,
- Read with or see that my child reads 30 minutes daily and encourage participation in Accelerated Reading Program,
- Communicate with my child's teacher on a regular basis.

STUDENT

We, as students, will share responsibility to improve academic achievement in the following ways: (These bullets were developed by HWMS students)

- Attend school regularly and be prepared each day with completed assignments and supplies,
- Learn multiplication facts up to 12's,
- Work cooperatively with my classmates and teachers and ask for help when needed,
- Follow rules of student conduct and respect myself, my school, and other people,
- Discuss any concerns with teacher or parent that would negatively affect my performance,
- Put school work before any extracurricular activities,
- Avoid unhealthy situations at school or at home.

SCHOOL/TEACHER

To strengthen the school-parent partnership, Herald Whitaker Middle School will:

- Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the participating children to meet Kentucky and national student academic achievement standards,
- Teachers will have team planning daily to connect learning across the curriculum,
- To inspire students' best efforts, Professional Learning Communities will be made in order to create a smaller "Family Concept",
- Hold parent-teacher conferences scheduled during annual fall open house where the compact will be discussed as it relates to the individual child's achievement,
- Provide parents with frequent reports on their children's progress through interim progress reports, quarterly report cards, IEP meetings, telephone calls, e-mail, and parent-teacher conferences,
- Provide opportunities for parents to communicate with the school through designated time to meet with principal and/or teachers, and through parenting workshops, and parent portal,
- Provide parents opportunities to volunteer and to observe classroom activities by encouraging parents to attend a volunteer training held annually through the Youth Service Center. Parents may then volunteer and assist in classrooms, with special projects, and on scheduled "Volunteer Days",
- Update student progress weekly on parent portal,
- Teachers will contact parents weekly or as needed.