Overview

Sitka High School views parents and family as full and integral partners in their children’s education at school. Parent-school partnerships improve schools, strengthen families, build community support, and increase student achievement and success. The purpose of this policy is to encourage active parent and family engagement, and to define how Sitka High School will help facilitate this.

Joint Development

This policy was jointly developed with parents and family members. District and school administration requested input via focus groups and school parent advisory committees.

In general, the Sitka School District plans broadly for all programming, and then allocates resources, including Federal funding, as appropriate and available. Parents and family members will participate in developing the District ESEA Plan, Consolidated Grant Applications, and School Improvement Plans through the District Strategic Planning Process and school-based planning processes.

Communication

Sitka High School will provide families of participating children with the following, in an understandable format, at a regular meeting, parent conferences, or via mail or e-mail:

- A copy of or link to the school and district parent and family engagement policies
- A description of the curriculum and assessments used, and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards
- If requested by parents, the opportunity for regular meetings to give input into school planning
- Information on any programming provided to parents/families

Coordination

Sitka High School will coordinate efforts with consideration of the requirements of Title IA and with other parent and family engagement activities taking place within the school. The school will also coordinate with the District and local partners to provide additional supports and resources to families.
Building Capacity of Parents and Family Members

Sitka High School will build Title I parents’ and family members’ capacity for school engagement by providing assistance in understanding academic standards and assessments, how to monitor student progress, how to work with educators to support students, and the requirements of Title IA. The school may also provide training to families to develop the skills needed to help their children improve their academic achievement.

Building Capacity of School Staff

Sitka High School will provide annual professional learning to teachers and staff, to include:

- The value of parental contributions
- How to communicate to parents
- How to work with parents as equal partners
- How to implement parent programs, and
- How to build ties between parents and the schools.

SCHOOL-FAMILY-STUDENT COMPACT

The following compact was jointly developed with parents and families. District and school administration requested parent and family input via focus groups and school parent advisory committees.

The purpose is to define how schools, families, and students will share responsibility for academic achievement.

SCHOOL RESPONSIBILITIES

Provide high quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment, including

- Evidence-based core academic and social emotional learning curricula
- Multi-tiered systems of support for both academics and behavior, intended to serve the diverse needs of all students
- Effective teaching practices
- Positive Behavior Interventions and Support
- Data-informed instruction and class placement

Host biannual parent-teacher conferences, at which this compact may be discussed. Conferences are held once in each semester (typically October and February) and are scheduled in a variety of timeframes to attempt to accommodate family schedules.
Provide parents/guardians regular reports on their children’s progress as follows:

- A parent portal is available through PowerSchool for student grades and attendance. The link to this portal is available on the Sitka High School website. Please call the high school for assistance with this portal. (907)-747-3263
- MAPS is administered twice per year for students in grades 9-11, and results are available to share with parents at conferences or upon request.
- Scores on the State summative assessments (PEAKS) given in grades 3-10 are mailed home in the first month after school starts each year.
- Sitka High School offers additional student assistance throughout the school day and after school tutoring on Monday-Thursday afternoons from 3:30-5:00pm in the SHS/STA Student Support Center/Grandparents’ House (Room 205).
- Sitka High School also provides the opportunity for additional support via Saturday School at least twice each semester (four times each school year).

Provide parents reasonable access to staff:

- Teachers may be contacted via email or by phone (each teacher has a telephone extension and voice mail).
- Administrators may also be contacted via email or by phone.
- Staff email addresses and phone numbers can be found in the staff directory on the district website at www.sitkaschools.org
- Family members are invited to stop by the school from 8:00am - 4:00pm to make an appointment with staff.

Provide parents with opportunities to volunteer, observe, or participate in their children’s classrooms, such as:

- There are a variety of volunteer opportunities available to parents throughout the school year that include dances, activity events, concerts, performances, conferences, classroom activities, presentations, etc. If you feel that you have a particular area of expertise, please let the school know where you feel you could best contribute.

Facilitate meaningful, two-way communication between family members and school staff by:

- Providing “real-time” access to grades and attendance.
- Providing regular opportunities to meet with teachers and discuss student progress.
- Regular updates from the school on current and upcoming events.
- Periodic call-outs from the school regarding important upcoming events.
- Posts through various social and local media outlets listing upcoming events.

**PARENT/FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES**

Parents and family members may support their children’s learning in the following ways:
• Talking supportively about school at home
• Encouraging students to do their best and stick to it when school is hard
• Ensuring students eat a nutritious breakfast, either at home or at school
• Participating in decisions about their children’s education
• Staying informed about school by reading notices sent home
• Participating in school and district planning and surveys
• Advocating for their children’s needs at school
• Supporting regular and timely student attendance
• Supporting students in completing homework

**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

Students can influence their own success by doing the following:

• Trying their best in academic work and behavior
• Asking for help when needed
• Coming to school willing to participate and learn
• Communicating with teachers, principals, family members, and/or other caring adults about school experiences
• Showing respect for themselves, the school, and others
• Believing in themselves
• Exhibiting the values of Haa Latseen (Strength of Mind, Body and Spirit) - Being Engaged, Compassionate and Responsible