Instruction

SCHOOL, PARENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

BLATCHLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Overview

Blatchley Middle 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 Blatchley Middle School will 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.

Annual Title 1A Meeting

Annually, Blatchley Middle School will host a Title IA meeting, at a time convenient for parents and family of children receiving Title IA funded services. The school will provide information on the Title IA program and request input on the programming and on this parent and family involvement policy.

Communication

Blatchley Middle School will provide families of participating children with the following, in an understandable format, at the annual meeting, parent conferences, or via mail or e-mail:

- Timely information about the school’s Title IA programming
- 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
SCHOOL, PARENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT - BMS (continued)  AR 6015(b)

- Information on how to access Schoology accounts

Coordination

Blatchley Middle School will coordinate parent and family engagement efforts made under the requirements of Title IA 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

Blatchley Middle 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

Blatchley Middle 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
SCHOOL, PARENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT - BMS (continued) AR 6015(c)

- 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 in November, during the 1st semester and in February of 2nd semester. Conferences are student-led, open house format. Opportunities for families to meet with grade level teams individually are also offered.

Provide parents/guardians regular reports on their children’s progress as follows:
- Report cards are sent home twice a year, in January and May. Progress reports are sent home during parent-teacher conferences (see above) and additionally in April and May.
- The Measures of Academic Progress test is administered three times a year. The results of this assessment are mailed home in September, December and May. Results are provided only to the families of students and the school they attend.
- Scores on the State summative assessments given in grades 3-10 are mailed home in the first month after school starts each year.
- Grade level teams will call home and schedule meetings with families as needed.
- Grade level teams will discuss all / any appropriate options for student success
- Blatchley Middle School uses the online Schoology platform to help students and families stay abreast of assignments, grades, and homework. Each student and each family receives a personal username and password to access their account.
- Blatchley will provide individual training sessions on how to access Schoology during Parent Teacher Conferences and by appointment.

Provide parents reasonable access to staff:
- The best way for families to contact a specific school employee at Blatchley Middle School is to call the front office at (907) 747-8672, via the teacher’s Schoology page, or by email.
- To contact an administrator at BMS call the above number or dial the Principal directly at (907) 966-1403 or the Assistant Principal at 966-1404
- Staff email addresses and phone numbers can also be found in the staff directory on the district website at www.sitkaschools.org
- Family members are invited to stop by the school from 8:00-3:30 to make an appointment with staff.
Provide parents with opportunities to volunteer, observe, or participate in their children’s classrooms, such as:

- Discover Your Potential Week
- Chaperone after school activities (dances, sporting events, concerts)
- Come and eat lunch with your student(s)
- Help greet arriving students from 8:00-8:23 each morning
- Volunteer in the BMS Library
- Set up a time to visit a classroom by calling the main office at (907) 747-8672
- Attend one or all of the monthly family BBQ’s

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

- Weekly emails from administration to all families (including reminders about Schoology access)
- Teachers send notecards home regarding student successes
- Posting daily and weekly updates to Schoology
- Offering times to meet with grade level teams or individual teachers, by appointment, during parent-teacher conferences and /or any given day of the week. Call the main office at (907) 747-8672.

**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
- Limit access to evening electronics
- Check Schoology weekly
- Help ensure 8 hours of sleep each night
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
- Honoring the BMS code of, “Respectful, Responsible and Safe!”