

CHARLTON COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

Bethune Middle School Parent Involvement Policy

Revised 8/28/12

Revised 7/18/11

Revised 8/30/10

Revised 8/07/09

Revised 8/24/08

Title I Parent Involvement Policy

For

Bethune Middle School

In compliance with the *Title I Comprehensive School-Wide* program's expectations and to ensure student success, partnership among the school and parents is essential. Bethune Middle School (BMS) recognizes that parents are the child's primary teacher and their support is critical in our efforts to provide a quality education. The avenue with which to support this endeavor is the Parent Involvement Committee.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Bethune Middle School has established a Parent Involvement Advisory Committee which meets at the beginning and end of each year to plan and review the current Parent Involvement Policy. One of its purposes is to plan activities to increase parent involvement. The committee will consider the six national standards for parent/family involvement (parenting, communicating, student learning, volunteering, school decision-making, and advocacy and collaborating with the community) when planning the year's activities for Bethune Middle. The school invites all parents of Bethune Middle School students to be a part of this committee, and the committee consists of regular and special education teachers, parents of regular students, parents of students with disabilities, and administrators.

The duties of the Parental Involvement Advisory Committee also include a review of the school/parent/child compact. This document is updated each year to make sure it meets the purpose it was established for. Parents are also involved in the day to day decisions for the school through participation on the School Council. This is a body made up of administrators, teachers, parents, and local business people that meet to discuss ways that all of these factions can work together to improve student achievement.

TITLE I ANNUAL MEETING

Parents are invited to an annual meeting, held at the beginning of the school year. At this time, parents are informed of our school's participation in the *Title I School-Wide Program* and actions needed to meet the requirements of *No Child Left Behind* (NCLB). At this annual meeting, parents will be informed about the following:

- Review the Bethune Middle School Title I Parent Involvement Policy that will be sent home with the first progress report. Copies are available for those present.
- Responsibilities of the parents, students, teachers and administrators in support of student learning are reviewed with the school compact, which will be sent home with the first progress report and discussed further in parent/teacher conferences.
- Results of the Parent Survey from the previous year are presented, as well as some of the steps taken to respond to suggestions for improvement. All returned surveys are available for review upon request and are kept in the school conference room in the Parent Involvement Notebook.
- The School-Wide Improvement Plan is addressed and made available to parents, as well as, the District School-Wide Improvement Plan.
- A calendar of opportunities for parent involvement during the coming year is presented to parents. These activities include programs such as Family Nights, Make and Take Workshops, Health Fairs, and educational seminars.
- Information is presented about the parent resources available through the Charlton County parent resource room at the board of Education office the parenting resources available for checkout through the school office and school nurse.
- Parents are informed of our need for parent volunteers and invited to spend time in our school, assisting with student learning.

FLEXIBLE SCHEDULING

The parent involvement opportunities are offered with flexible scheduling. Daytime and evening activities are planned. Childcare is available, as needed. The programs are planned with two goals in mind: to increase parent involvement and to educate parents about their child's education. At every Family Night, some aspect of the national, state, or local curriculum standards are explained. There are other avenues available within the school for parent involvement such as the *Parent Volunteer* program and the PTO.

TIMELY INFORMATION

A Parent Suggestion Box is located in the front lobby of the school and is checked daily for any responses. This box is also in the forefront at all family events. Additionally, a link has been provided on the school's webpage under the "BMS Parent Involvement" tab to make providing suggestions for our school more convenient for those who cannot come into the building.

INFORMING PARENTS OF ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Parents will be informed of the school's performance in regards to No Child Left Behind and the new College and Career Ready Performance Index. Parents will be informed of school performance and individual student performance through interpretation reports that are sent home with each child following CRCT test scoring. This will allow the parent to see how our school and their child measures up to the proficiency levels of other students in the same grade. A data room is provided where parents or interested persons can view our school performance across all grades for the last year and see where our strengths and weaknesses are.

ASSISTING PARENTS

Family nights are planned throughout the year that addresses the interests of the parents. These interests were determined by the annual survey results by parents and members of the Parental Involvement Advisory Committee. Some aspect of the curriculum is highlighted at each of these meetings in hopes of giving

parents a better understanding of how they can help their child. An information center is set up in the lobby and at all family night meetings to provide information about the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards for each grade. This provides up to date curriculum requirements for the Georgia student.

Parents can keep up with a student's progress by report cards each nine weeks, a progress report that is sent after 4 ½ weeks, and individual student grade-sheets that are printed by individual teachers on an as needed basis, usually bi-weekly. Based on parent surveys from 2011-2012 school year, three afternoons have been set aside as formal meeting times for parent/teacher conferences. These conferences give the teachers an opportunity for individual conferences with parents who have concerns. The dates for these conferences have been set for September 13; November 15; and April 25. Each of the conferences will be held from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Parents will also be able to access their child's grades through the Parent Portal online grade book – PowerSchool. PowerSchool access will be demonstrated during the Annual Title I Meeting. Students will be provided with a student planner, purchased with Title I Parent Involvement funds, that will enable the teacher and parent to communicate assignments, expectations, and helpful hints to each other. Additionally, as requested by parents through the 2011-2012 Parent Survey, teachers will communicate with parents on a regular basis via email and the school will keep the BMS webpage maintained and updated with information for upcoming school activities and events.

PARENTING TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE

The school will provide training for parents to help them work with their children in conventional work methods and online programs. Grade level make and take family nights train parents in grade appropriate activities. CRCT Online training and other available computer programs are also explained at family nights.

STAFF PARTICIPATION AND TRAINING

Bethune Middle encourages and fosters a healthy relationship between parents, teachers, school administration and support staff by requesting their participation and attendance at all parent involvement activities.

CO-ORDINATING SERVICES/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

BMS participates with other county schools to provide a county Health Fair. Information concerning activities for parents at the Charlton Public Library is shared by the school. Additionally, community businesses are encouraged to sponsor and support our awards programs. BMS participates in D.A.R.E. drug awareness and safety program. All government and business interests are invited to present educational programs. BMS has taken in account the request by parents for field trips, and therefore the 7th grade class will participate in a field trip to the local Okefenokee Swamp. Other local field trips will be provided as applicable to grade-level standards and time permits .

To the extent possible, Bethune Middle School will provide full opportunities for participation of students with English as a second language, parents of migratory children and parents of children with disabilities including providing information about school programs in a language that is understandable to the parent.

Finally, Bethune Middle School will provide other reasonable support for parental involvement as requested by parents. We will make every effort to accommodate their needs.

Policy was revised, August, 2012, using the checklist for school level Parental Involvement according to Title I, Section 1118 of NCLB.

