



Pottsville K-6 Parental, Family and Community Engagement Plan 2023-2024

JOINTLY DEVELOPED EXPECTATIONS AND OBJECTIVES

Pottsville School encourages parents/families to become actively involved in their child's education. Engaging parents/families is essential to improve student achievement. Pottsville School recognizes three very important factors with regard to parent and family engagement in the education of students:

- A child's education is a responsibility shared by school and family during the entire time the child spends in school.
- School and parents/families must work as knowledgeable partners to educate all students effectively.
- Parents/families play an integral role in assisting learning.

When parents/families are actively involved in their children's education, they do better in school. It is essential for parents/families to have a positive attitude regarding education, and to demonstrate trust that their children can do well. When parents/families become involved, both students and the school benefit:

- Grades and test results are higher.
- Students' attitudes and behavior are more positive.
- Academic programs are more successful.
- The school, as a whole, is more effective.

The purpose of the Parent and Family Engagement Plan is to describe programs and practices in place at Pottsville K-6 that create and support active parent and family engagement and meet the needs of students and their families. Copies of this plan will be provided to students at the beginning of each school year. Copies are also available through the school office or the Parent Center. Please feel free to contact our Parent Involvement Coordinators-Lane Smith (Elementary)

at 479.968.2133 and/or Lisa Corbin (Middle Grades) at 479.890.6631 with any questions regarding parent, family and community engagement at Pottsville K-6.

The focus for 2023-2024 will be assisting families better with language barriers and communicating better with parents during conference periods, using remind 101, etc.

COMMUNICATION

Tools

- Newsletter
- School Messenger
- Notes home
- Parent-Family/Teacher Conferences
- Open House
- PTO Meetings
- School Building Sign
- Involved parents/families (volunteers)
- Remind 101
- Texting
- Website
- Email
- Telephone
- Facebook Page

BUILDING STAFF CAPACITY

Resolution of Parent/Family Concerns

Pottsville K-6 recognizes that parents/families are full partners in the decisions that affect their child and family. The Pottsville School District Student Handbook provides a grievance process for resolving parent/family concerns, including how to define the problem, whom to approach first, and how to develop solutions. A copy of the handbook is given to each student at the beginning of each school year along with a description of changes. Parents/families are required to acknowledge they have read the district and building parent/family engagement plans and become familiar with the requirements contained within the handbook at the beginning of each school year.

As discussed within the handbook, parents/families may schedule a conference at any time during the school year to discuss a specific issue with the teacher or principal. Conferences can be scheduled for grades K-3 by calling 479.968-2133 and for grades 4-6 call 479.890-6631. Please refer to the student handbook for correct procedures in addressing concerns or problems.

Volunteers

Pottsville School encourages and welcomes parent/family volunteers. Parents/families differ greatly regarding their preferences, capabilities and time available; therefore, Pottsville K-6 offers a variety of ways parents/families can be involved. If you are interested, please complete a Volunteer Form and return it to school. Volunteers will share the following: Interests/hobbies willing to share, activities that interest you, how frequently you would like to participate (including the option of just one time per year), and concerns or needs that you may have. The Volunteer Form will be used to help match school needs with volunteer interests and availability. Before volunteering, all volunteers will be given an orientation that will explain basic policies and procedures. The Volunteer Resource Book is maintained by the Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator for use by teachers to identify and match potential volunteers to identified needs. The Volunteer Resource Book includes:

- The Parent/Family Volunteer Form information so volunteer work will be meaningful
- How frequently a volunteer would like to participate, including the option of just one (1) time per year
- Options for those who are available to help at home

Professional Development

In accordance with our School Improvement plan and the State Board Of Education's Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts, Pottsville School District will provide no fewer than two (2 hours) of professional development for teachers designed to enhance the understanding of effective parent and family engagement strategies (as required on a rotating four year basis). The same amount of hours (2) will be provided to administrators designed to enhance understanding of effective parent and family engagement strategies and the importance of administrative Leadership in setting expectations and creating a climate conducive to parent and family engagement.

BUILDING PARENT CAPACITY

PTO

The Parent-Family-Teacher Organization needs you! The PTO helps meet the needs of students through annual fundraisers, and other various activities. The PTO provides funding for academic activities such as the A.R. (Accelerated Reader) parties, Family Fun Days/Nights , and other student-related events. PTO works to meet the needs of the students and school while providing parents/families fun and exciting ways to be involved. The PTO regularly sends home important dates and information to parents/families (as needed) throughout the year to announce activities coordinated by the PTO. They meet on an as needed basis. Please take the opportunity to join the PTO.

Open House (Parents/Families Make the Difference)

Open House is held at the beginning of the year. It is an opportunity for students and parents/families to visit the school, meet with the principal and talk with the student's teacher for the coming academic year. It is a must for parents/families wishing to acquaint themselves with the campus and staff. The Principal/Designee presents the Annual Report to the Patrons at this open house. This report is on the state of the school. Teachers give an overview of:

- What students will be learning
- How students will be assessed
- What parents/families should expect for their child's education
- How parents/families can assist and make a difference in his or her child's education

Literacy Night/Family Fun Day/Night (Elem)

Science in the Park-5th Grade (MG)

Mid-America Museum on-site day-4th (MG)

Elementary and Middle Grades will host a variety of activities that will provide parents/families and students the opportunity to spend time together as a family and as part of the community. The nights/days will consist of workshops that combine fun and learning including strategies to promote literacy, math, and/or science and encourage families to incorporate reading activities and/or real-world activities in their home.

Parenting Materials

A Parent/Family Resource area has been established in each building to provide parenting materials such as books, magazines, and other informative materials regarding responsible parenting. The Parent/Family Center in Middle Grades is located in the Middle Grades Workroom and the Parent/Family Center in Elementary is located in the Elementary Bookroom. These materials are available for checkout on Monday-Friday from 8:00 A.M. -3:30 P.M. while students are in attendance. At Elementary, books may also be checked out on-line and sent home with students for families to read. Other resources are available upon request in each building.

Monthly Newsletters and Calendars

The building counselors or teachers will send home a monthly parent/family newsletter and activity calendar. The newsletter also provides a listing of any new parenting/family materials (e.g. , pamphlets, books, etc.) as they become available in the Parent and Family Center. At the beginning of each year, the newsletter will advertise an overview of the current selection of materials available for checkout. The newsletter also prints regular statements that reaffirm the school district's commitment to parent and family engagement.

Website/Facebook

A building website will list Parent/Family news. The site may include:

- Monthly calendar
- Monthly newsletter
- Parent/Family Center inventory
- Volunteer information
- Informative websites to visit
- Parent/Family newsletters on mental health and summer growth opportunities

School Messenger or Remind 101

School Messenger is a phone program that calls students and parents in the district with a recorded message of your choice. Teachers or building principals may contact parents/families about important announcements, such as: early dismissal, parenting/family days or nights, PTO meetings, etc. Remind 101 sends texts to students and parents/families with messages.

KFS Program

KFS stands for "kid-friendly snacks". Jill Riggs (Elementary School Nurse) and Taba Thurman (Middle Grades Counselor) will pack nutritional, "kid-friendly" ready to eat foods for participating students. These foods will be taken home at the end of the school day. Food is provided by the Arkansas Rice Depot in Little Rock.

Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students)

Watch D.O.G.S. is a national innovative program focusing on the prevention of violence in our children's schools by using the positive influence of fathers and father-figures for a two-fold purpose:

1. to provide an unobtrusive presence in schools
2. to be a positive and active role model for children at their school

School Supplies

The building secretaries will supply a list to the community of supplies that students use on a daily basis. Community organizations and parents/families donate supplies. The supplies are kept in each building and are dispersed as needed.

Tutoring (4-6)

Teachers will work with parents/families and principals to schedule tutoring sessions for students who request the service. Tutoring will be provided by people in the community and/or school staff (as available).

Yearly Activities

- Open House “Parents/Families Make A Difference Night”
- Title I Meeting
- Parent-Family/Teacher Conferences-October 19, 2023, and February 15th, 2024
- PTO
- Awards Assemblies
- Family Fun Day/Night
- Guest Speakers
- Guest Readers (Elem)
- Watch D.O.G.S.
- Fundraisers

Grade Level Activities

Grade level activities will vary. Some examples might include: field trips, literacy nights, special day events, classroom activities, competitions, guest speakers, plays, etc. Parents/families will be notified of dates and times.

COORDINATION

Community Resources

Pottsville School District recognizes that community resources strengthen school programs, family practices and student learning. Pottsville School District has a “Task Force”/ “Alumni Advisors” committee of those who wish to become involved by providing advice and guidance for school improvement. All information will be made available to teachers to link the community and school.

The faculty and staff are responsible for promoting and encouraging a welcome atmosphere to parent and family engagement in the school. They make efforts to ensure that parent and family participation is recognized as an asset to the school. In addition, the Principals designate certified staff members willing to serve as parent and family facilitators to organize meaningful training for staff and parents/families to promote this effort.

ANNUAL REVIEW

Annual Review

This plan is a living document and will be reviewed and/or revised in August 2023 and April 2024. A Title I Meeting will be held after open houses in August 2023. A copy of the plan will be filed with the Division of Secondary and Elementary Education annually. The effectiveness of the parent and family engagement plan will be evaluated and changes made as warranted. Parents/families will be surveyed annually and the appropriate data collected throughout the year to help assess parent and family participation in workshops and meetings, specific needs of parents/families, effectiveness of specific strategies, and the overall engagement of parents and family in activities that support student academic growth. The annual review will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents/family in parent and family engagement activities (with particular attention to parents/family who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background).

Title I Parents’/Families’ Right to Know

Parents/families have the right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of their student’s classroom teacher(s) and or paraprofessional(s) assisting their student’s teacher. Parents/families may contact: Steve Minnear, Middle Grades Principal at 479.890.6331, Shannon Davis, Elementary Principal at 479.968.2133 or the Superintendent of Schools at 479.968. 8101 with questions. If at any time a student has been taught for four (4) or more consecutive weeks by

a teacher(s) that is not highly qualified, the student's parent/family will be notified by the school of this information.

SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

Parent-Family – Teacher Conferences

Effective communication between home and school should be regular, two-way and meaningful. To facilitate effective communication, the school schedules school-wide conferences once each semester, at the end of the 1st and after the 5th week of the 3rd nine weeks grading periods. The purpose of these conferences is to discuss your child's strengths, weaknesses, and areas where you can help your child reach their full potential.

Out student and family handbook on-line (hard copies available upon request) also provide access to the compact.

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

We do not receive over \$500,000 in Title I funds; however, we still receive input from parents and families on how to spend these funds through surveys and meetings.