

# Hickman County Middle School

## Parent and Family Engagement Policy

### 2023-2024

#### Mission

Our mission is to protect and build a better future for our students. In partnership with parents and families, we are committed to educating all students to the highest levels of academic achievement while preparing them to become productive, responsible, and ethical members of society.

#### Vision

HCMS: where everyone is valued, respected, and elevated to the highest levels of academic and personal growth.

**1. Welcoming all Families into the School Community.** Families are active participants in the life of the school and are made to feel valued, welcome and connected to each other, to school staff, and to what students are doing and learning in school.

**\*Open House:** HCMS provides an Open House in August in which teachers and staff welcome 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Families receive a school calendar and are shown a presentation that outlines behavioral and academic expectations, school procedures, reward strategies, etc. Parents are given an opportunity to ask questions and meet their child's teachers.

**\*6<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation:** 6<sup>th</sup> grade students and families are invited to an orientation in which school procedures, academic and behavioral expectations, rules, and reward strategies are discussed.

**\*PTC:** Teachers will hold conferences on three separate occasions to better allow teachers to meet individually with parents of children in their classrooms. Families will be given a summary of the student's grades and/or test scores and an explanation of the interventions teachers are using to assist the child in reaching goals. Families will be asked to engage in discussion of how they can support these efforts. Families will also be given suggestions for coordinating school-family efforts and explanations of homework, grading procedures, and educational websites that parents can find useful in assisting their child with math and reading.

**\*HCMS encourages parental involvement in the following types of roles and activities to increase their involvement and support for student learning:**

**\*Veterans Day Celebration**

**\*BETA Club induction**

**\*BETA Club Convention**

**\*After school activities such as socials, tailgate parties, sporting events, fundraisers, etc.**

**\*Sporting Events**

**\*Annual Drama Club Production**

**\*Art Gallery Night for Art Club**

**\*Choir and Band performances**

**\*8<sup>th</sup> Grade night for all sports**

- \*8<sup>th</sup> Grade night award ceremony in May
- \* Awards Day ceremony for 6th and 7th grade in May
- \*Sports Banquets
- \*Book Fairs
- \*RISE (After- School Program where parent night's are held)

**2. Communicating Effectively.** Families and school engage in regular, meaningful communication about student learning.

\***HCMS maintains a school website.** The website will be composed of information regarding the calendar of events, faculty and staff contact information, student achievements such as "Student of the Week", etc., sports schedules, and valuable academic websites are linked for parents and students to utilize. The Parent and Family Engagement Policy is made available on the school website.

\***HCMS maintains a Facebook page.** Using social media provides families with another means of obtaining information about school events, class activities, and student/school activities and achievements.

\***HCMS teachers use REMIND 101.** REMIND 101 is used by individual teachers to inform families about classwork, homework, projects, school/classroom activities, and other pertinent information in a timely manner.

\***Skyward Grade Portal.** Parent portal is available for families with internet capabilities. This program allows families immediate information concerning grades, schedules, attendance, and discipline records.

\***Individual teacher/parent communication.** Teachers will routinely contact parents on an individual basis to communicate their child's progress. The purpose for communication is to express positive comments, as well as, noted concerns. Communication between home and school may include but not limited to the following: phone calls, emails, texts, REMIND 101, and/or hand written notes. The school will also host a Facebook page which provides current information about upcoming events and activities.

\***Progress reports and report cards.** The school will provide progress reports every four and one-half weeks with information regarding their child's academic progress. Report cards will be sent out every nine weeks.

\***School events are published in a timely manner on the school's website.**

**3. Collaborating with the Community.** To the extent possible, HCMS coordinates with other relevant Federal, State, and Local programs to provide help for students and their families.

\*Friday Friends.

\*All students receive free breakfast and lunch through a federal grant.

\*Well Child Physicals

\* Well Child Optometry

\*Free immunizations for incoming 7<sup>th</sup> graders.

\*School nurse on site daily.

\* Health Connect Collaboration

\* Dental Checks

\*Referring families needing assistance as requested.

\*Providing information on educational resources as needed.

**4. Supporting Student Success.** Families and staff continuously collaborate to support students' learning and healthy development and have regular opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and skill to do so effectively.

\*Provide information on curricular objectives and state standards to parents and families.

\*Staff development that builds capacity for parent and family engagement and learning strategies.

\*Available community resources are made available to students such as vision and hearing screenings, Well Child Care, Friday Friends, etc.

**5. Speaking up for every child.** Families are empowered to be advocates for their own children, to ensure that all students are treated fairly and have access to learning opportunities that will support their success.

\*HCMS monitors the progress of all students. Students are provided necessary assistance when needed and families are encouraged to participate when decisions are made concerning their child's school success.

\*Our school district employs a Homeless Liaison to represent any homeless child.

\*Information is made available for families with limited English proficiency.

**6. Sharing Power.** Families and staff collaborate with community members to connect students, families and staff to expanded learning opportunities, community services, and civic participation.

\*Our local 4-H Extension office provides community opportunities to students.

\*There is a focus in our school to build a family/community friendly environment where parents, school leaders, and community leaders work together to strengthen Schools.

\* We have a group of teachers and staff members who make up our Parent Involvement Committee. This committee develops opportunities for our parents to be involved in activities throughout the school year.

\* Beta students are required to complete 10 hours of community service each year.

\* HCMS holds a Career Day as well as a College and Career Day. Community leaders are invited to attend.

\*Families are invited to be a part of our leadership team in order to create ongoing planning, reviewing, and improvement of family engagement and to provide input on the school improvement plan.