

DeWitt Middle School

Parent & Family Engagement Plan 2020-2021

The administration and staff at DeWitt Middle School understand and value the importance of involving parents in their child's education. This is vital for the child to reach his or her full potential. It is our desire to form a partnership with parents and families in order to improve the emotional, academic, and social growth of all of our students. Through this plan, we hope to encourage parental involvement and give parents the tools/resources necessary to guide their children to become lifelong learners and productive citizens.

Our Parental Involvement Plan is in compliance with the legal requirements of Arkansas Act 307 of 2007 (6-15-1702), Act 397 (6-17-1702) (b), and the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (PL 107-110). The plan is also a part of the DeWitt Middle School's Arkansas Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (ACSIP). These documents represent a partnership development with parents, students, school personnel, and community stakeholders.

Parental Involvement Committee:

Rachel Mitchell, DMS Principal	Courtney Barnett, DMS Counselor
Sissy Odaware, DMS/DHS Instructional Coach	
Laura Beth Place, DMS/DHS Instructional Coach	
Krystal Harrison, DMS SPED Teacher	Emily Fisher, DMS FACS Teacher
Tiffanie Hearn, Parent Representative	
Barry Barnett, Community Representative	

Program Components:

The following components make up the DMS Parental Involvement Plan:

1. We encourage parents and community members to participate as full partners in the decisions that affect our students at DMS and we will:
 - a. Include parents and community members on committees at our school. Such committees include, but are not limited to: ACSIP/School Improvement Planning Committee, Parental Involvement Committee, Backpack & Student Assistance Committee.

- b. Meet with committees on a regular basis to assess the needs of our students and families at the time. Surveys, participation in meetings such as AIP, 504, and Student Success Plans, and parent communication will all be ways we will monitor our progress towards our missions and goals.
 - c. Advertise and assist partners in promoting upcoming events.
- 2. DeWitt Middle School will work hard to inform all parents and members of the community. We will use the following methods to get information out.
 - a. Student and Parent Access (HAC) to grades, behavior reports, and attendance records.
 - b. SchoolReach phone and email notifications that can be sent out district wide or by specific schools.
 - c. District level and school level websites: www.dewittdragons.net
 - d. District level and school level social media sites: ex: Facebook
 - e. Information will be shared with local media sources such as the DeWitt Era Enterprise Newspaper and KWAK 97.3 and 105.5 local radio stations.
 - f. School televisions will scroll messages throughout the day. They are located in the hallway and front foyer of DMS.
 - g. School announcements will be read each morning and posted on the school website. They will be updated daily.
 - h. Report cards and progress reports will be sent home on a frequent basis.
 - i. Teacher Apps for communication such as: GroupMe & Remind.
 - j. Parent letters and fliers will be sent home with students or mailed to families.
 - k. Student handbooks that contain staff email addresses and school calendars.
- 3. DMS has the following events planned for the 2019-2020 school year:
 - a.
- 4. Our DMS Staff works together to build our capacity to work together with parents and equal partners. We attend Professional Development workshops, conferences, training, etc. to do so. Some examples of this include:
 - a. District level PD that inform staff about issues such as bullying, suicide prevention, etc. A minimum of 2 hours of PD per year is dedicated to Parental & Family Engagement.
 - b. Instruction of State Mandated Reporting is given to staff annually.
 - c. Principal and counselor will provide training for staff concerning expectations of parental involvement in the educational process. Our school will work to maintain a climate that is conducive to parental participation.

5. During the 2019-2020 school year, the DMS Parent & Family Engagement Committee will meet to brainstorm ways to further enhance our plan. Goals for this year are:
- a. Including parents in some PD/Teacher Training that might include, but aren't limited to: suicide awareness, health related topics like the YES Program (Teen Pregnancy & STD Prevention), Human Trafficking, etc.
 - b. Selecting parent and community volunteers to become involved in Literacy Tutoring. This may include allowing some volunteers to be trained in the Science of Reading and helping with Literacy Nights.
 - c. Selecting "Lead" Parents to assist in the contact of other parents and family members. When parent nights are hosted at the school, the LEAD Parents could assist school personnel in the facilitation of such informative nights.
 - d. Parent Committees will work on ways to brainstorm ideas to be more "flexible" in meeting parents' and guardians' needs. Some topics of discussion may include, but will not be limited to: flexible meeting times for student conferences, better ways to assess the needs of families beyond the school day, and how to meet those needs, etc.
 - e. Work with other parental committees in the DeWitt School District to assess the needs of our families as a whole. Work together to meet each other's Engagement Plans as well as see if there are needs beyond each individual school that we can band together to meet.