

# **Ithica Elementary**

*A Title One School*

Parent and Family Engagement Plan



# **ITHICA**

## **ELEMENTARY**

**2023-2024**

Revision Date: August 7, 2023

# **Ithica Elementary School**

## ***Parent and Family Engagement Policy and Plan for Shared Student Success***

***2024-2025***

*Ithica Elementary School  
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*Plan Revised August 7, 2023*

### **School Plan for Shared Student Achievement**

#### **What is it?**

This is a plan that describes how Ithica Elementary will provide opportunities to improve family engagement to support student learning. Ithica Elementary values the contributions and involvement of parents and family members to establish an equal partnership for the common goal of improving student achievement. This plan describes the different ways that Ithica Elementary will support family engagement and how parents can help plan and participate in activities and events to promote student learning at school and at home.

#### **How is it revised?**

Ithica Elementary School invited all parents to attend our Annual School wide Title I Meeting as well as a Title I Parent and Stakeholder Input Meeting in April 2023 to review and revise this parent and family engagement policy, as well as the schoolwide plan, our school-parent compact, and the 1% parental involvement budget. Additionally, parent input and comments regarding this plan are welcome during the school year through written feedback. The plan is posted on our school website for parents to view and submit feedback throughout the year. All parent feedback received during the year will be used to revise the plan for the next school year. We also distribute an annual survey online to ask parents for their suggestions on the plan and the use of funds for family engagement. Staff is provided opportunities for input through building staff capacity professional learning sessions. Parents and family members can also give feedback during several parent meetings and activities during the school year. Any complaints will be submitted to Heather Duke, Director of Federal Programs at CCS.

#### **Who is it for?**

All students participating in the Title I, Part A program, and their families are encouraged and invited to fully participate in the opportunities described in this plan. Ithica Elementary will provide full opportunity for the participation of parents and family members with limited English, with disabilities, and of migratory children.

#### **Where is it available?**

## **What is Title I?**

Ithica Elementary is identified as a Title I school as part of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Title I is designed to support State and local school reform efforts tied to the challenging State academic standards to improve teaching and learning for students. Title I programs must be based on effective means of improving student achievement and include strategies to support family engagement. All Title I schools must jointly develop with parents and family members a written parent and family engagement policy.

At the beginning of the year, the plan is available for review in the front office and online at our school website. As a reminder, we will email the plan to all parents in September after an opportunity for feedback is given to all stakeholders. The final copy of the plan will be posted on the school website and social media. Parents can also retrieve a copy of the plan in the Parent Resource Center and our front office.

## 2023-2024 School Goals

Ithica's goals for the 2023-2024 school year are to increase the percentage of students scoring in Proficient & Distinguished bands on the ELA and Math Georgia Milestones (GMAS) by three percent, and to increase the percentage of students scoring in Proficient & Distinguished bands on STAR reading and STAR math on the March assessment by three percent.

### Areas of Focus:

- Improve phonemic and phonological awareness in students in grades K-2 by implementing Heggerty and Saxon Phonics instruction.
- Implementing structured literacy and science of reading interventions and strategies for all grade levels.
- Schoolwide implementation of a morning Extended Learning Time (ELT) to provide interventions and acceleration.
- Provide differentiated phonics interventions for students in 3rd, 4th and 5th grade.
- Providing daily math spiral reviews, and weekly formatives during k-5 math instruction to increase mastery of math concepts and skills.
- Provide on-going professional development for the implementation of structured literacy for K-5 teachers.

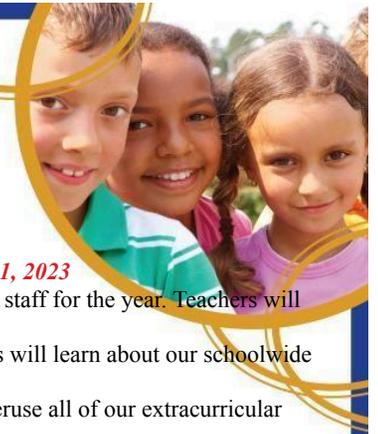
## 2023-2024 District Goals

The goals for the 2023-2024 school year includes: The percentage of students scoring at Proficient or above on the Georgia Milestones (GMAS) English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science End of Grade Assessments will increase by 3%. The percentage of students scoring at Proficient or above on the Georgia Milestones (GMAS) in subgroup categories of economically disadvantaged, Students with Disabilities,

and English Language students will increase in each area by 6%.



## Let's Get Together!



Ithica Elementary will host the following events to build the capacity for strong family engagement to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement. All meetings for parents and family members will be held at IES.

### ***Bring Your Parent to School & Club Expo Night - August 21, 2023***

Meet your child's teacher and our friendly and helpful school staff for the year. Teachers will give an overview of the content taught in that grade level, and parents will learn about our schoolwide goal setting initiative in all subject areas. Students and parents can also peruse all of our extracurricular offerings in the gymnasium at the Club Expo!

### ***Annual Title I Meeting – September 18, 2023 (2 sessions to choose from)***

We invite you to learn about our Title I program, including our parent and family engagement policy, the schoolwide plan, the school-parent compacts, and school parent compact. Invitations will be posted on the school website, social media, and via School Messenger. Two sessions will be available, one at 9:00 and one at 5:30 pm.

### ***Literacy Night – November 13, 2023 (In person and virtual updates from meeting)***

Parents will learn about initiative to implement the Science of Reading instructional reading strategies into all classrooms, and our switch from balanced literacy to structured literacy. Families will be provided with strategies, resources, and technology-based programs they can use at home to make their child Reader Leaders!

### ***Math Night - February 12, 2024 (In person and virtual updates from meeting)***

Learn how to help your child with math homework. At home strategies will be shared for parents to help students reinforce math concepts Included also are technology supports and innovative programs for students to use at home to improve math skills.

### ***Social Studies & STEM Night – March 18, 2024 (In person and virtual updates from meeting)***

Experience all the ways our staff has implemented STEM based learning activities and projects throughout the school year. Learn more about our process for undergoing National STEM recertification. At home learning activities will be shared with parents to encourage inquiry in and out of school.

### ***GA Milestones Testing Night - April 22, 2024 (In person and virtual updates from meeting)***

Come learn more about the Georgia Milestones Assessment for students in grades 3rd, 4th, and 5th. Families will be provided with opportunities to see what will be assessed, the types of questions their students could see, and ways they can help support their child both at home and at school.

### **School-Parent Compacts**

As part of this plan, Ithica Elementary staff, families, and students will develop a school-parent compact.

This agreement will explain how parents, teachers, and students share a common partnership and work together to help student reach grade level goals, future focused goals, and challenging state academic reading, math, and science goals. The compacts will be reviewed and updated annually based on feedback from parents, students, and teachers. The school- parent compacts also are shared with parents during parent-teacher conferences and kept with each child's teacher if parents need another copy.

### **Stakeholder Decision Making**

Each year Ithica Elementary School surveys parents, students and staff to gather information

about Ithica Elementary. This information is used to guide the School Improvement Team in developing a School-Wide Title One Plan. In addition, Ithica Elementary holds a Parent and Stakeholder Input Meeting to gather direct feedback from parents on the School-Wide Title One Plan, Title One Budget, School Compact and Parent and Family Engagement Plan. We also routinely survey parents about different opportunities for them to be involved in our school and continued family engagement activities to promote school/community partnerships. All input obtained is used toward the development of the most comprehensive plans possible for Ithica Elementary.

## Parent Resource Center

Come visit the Parent Resource Center to check out family board games, educational resources, books, study materials, and activities to use at home with your child. Volunteer opportunities exist for parents while visiting the parent center.

Monday – Friday, 7:10 am – 4:00 pm

## Parent and Family Engagement

Ithica Elementary believes that family engagement means the participation of parents and family members in regular two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- That parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning.
- That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school.
- That parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child.

Ithica Elementary is committed to helping our parents and families attend the family activities listed in this policy. Please call or email us if you need assistance with child care or transportation in order to participate in our programs. We may have a solution for you.

Michael Browning  
(678) 840-5101 or  
[michael.browning@carrollcountyschools.com](mailto:michael.browning@carrollcountyschools.com)

## Ithica Elementary is Branching Out!

Ithica Elementary will take the following measures to promote and support parents and family members as an

important foundation of the school in order to strengthen the school and reach our school goals. We will:

Ensure that all information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is published in both English and Spanish when necessary, posted on the social media/school website, and included in the 9 weeks school newsletter for all families in other languages as necessary.

Provide professional learning training for staff during their pre-planning on strategies to improve communication with parents and ideas to increase family engagement with reading and math activities for our students outside of the classroom.

Partner with early childhood programs, middle and high schools, college and career ready resources or organizations, parent resource centers, or other programs (as applicable) to help prepare parents and their children for successful school transitioning.

Offer Remind access to each parent for digital communication throughout the school year. Provide parents with current up to date curriculum by the first nine weeks using county-wide curriculum maps and state standards of excellence.

Communicate with all families and the community on a regular basis regarding school-wide events and activities, through phone messages, social media, school marquee and flyers.

Work with our parents to develop relevant trainings and helpful presentations to educate our staff on the importance of parent and family engagement and how to support student learning.

Provide necessary materials and handouts for parents at conferences, meetings, and activities to help parents work with their child to improve their child's achievement.

- ✓ Offer literacy and math classes for parents and family members to help further enhance their various educational levels.
- ✓ Collect feedback from parents and family members at parent events and in the parent resource center through a suggestion box.
- ✓ Partner with parents to provide a description of State Mandated Assessments and Formative School Assessments which will be used with their student. Parents will also evaluate this information.
- ✓ Provide parents with data for universal screeners, common assessments, and results of current state mandated test scores through the agenda.
- ✓ Detail goal setting and student progress towards academic goals and future focused goals.



- ✓ Collect feedback from parents and family members at events, Title I parent and student surveys, and post suggestion form on the school website in order to respond to parents' requests for additional support for parent and family engagement activities. If the schools Title I SWP is not satisfactory to a parent, we will submit their input directly to the district title one director upon receipt of the complaint. Parents can also contact the district title one director directly. Heather Duke can be reached at 770-832-3568.

## Parent and Family Engagement Standards

Ithica Elementary and our parents have adopted the National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships as the school's model in engaging parents, students, and the community. These standards are:

- Welcoming All Families
- Communicating Effectively
- Supporting Student Success
- Speaking Up for Every Child
- Sharing Power
- Collaborating with Community

## School Community Team

Ithica Elementary invites all parents to join a School Community Team to share ideas and ways to involve other parents and family members to build partnerships with school, families, and the community. The team will meet four times during the school year, but parents and family members can also submit their ideas or suggestions at any school activities and meetings, as well as through our parent survey and website. If you would like to learn more about the School Community Team, please contact Mr. Browning at (678) 840-5101 or complete the interest form and leave it in the Main Office.



## Share Your Thoughts

We want to hear from you. If you have any suggestions or if there is any part of this policy that you feel is not satisfactory with the students' and the school's goals for academic achievement, please provide us with your comments in the space provided and leave this form in the Main Office:

Name: (optional)

Telephone Number: (optional)

Comments:

## Ithica Elementary School Vision/Mission

**Mission:** The mission of Ithica Elementary School is to inspire each student by providing a foundation for continual success.

**Vision:** Students are passionate about learning,

which  
inspires their success.