

## **GRAVETTE MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENT and FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN 2023-24**

The goal of Gravette Middle School is to provide each student, regardless of race, sex, or disabilities, the opportunity to develop intellectually, physically, morally, socially, and emotionally to his/her full potential. We value the role parents play as their children's first teacher and the influences of their continued support to promote higher student academic achievement and school performance.

Our mission at Gravette Middle School is to provide instruction for the whole child, provide the opportunity for all students to utilize technology, and help our students develop into productive, responsible citizens.

The following outline is in compliance with the legal requirements of Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). The plan represents joint development with parents, students and school staff.

### **I. Communicating - Communication between home and school is regular, two-way, and meaningful.**

- A. Gravette Middle School shall develop an informational packet to be distributed annually to the parent of each child in school. It shall contain the following:
  1. Gravette Middle School's Parent and Family Engagement Plan.
  2. The recommended role of the parent, student, teacher, and school.
  3. Ways for parents to become involved in the school and his/her child's education.
  4. A survey for the parent regarding his or her interests concerning volunteering at the school.
  5. Activities planned throughout the school year to encourage school involvement.
  6. A system to allow the parents and teachers to communicate in a regular, two-way, and meaningful manner with the student's teacher and school principal.

- B. Gravette Middle School will schedule two parent/teacher conferences at which parents are given an overview of:
1. What students will be/are learning.
  2. How students will be/have been assessed.
  3. What parents should expect for their child's education.
  4. How a parent can assist and make a difference in his or her child's education.
- C. Parents will be given the opportunity to have his/her child's ACT/Aspire test results interpreted for them in a group and/or individually.
- D. Professional development designed to enhance understanding of effective parental involvement strategies will be provided for teachers.
- E. Professional development opportunities will be provided for administrators to enhance the understanding of effective parent involvement strategies and the importance of administrative leadership in setting expectations and creating a climate conducive to parental participation.
- F. A calendar of Gravette Middle School events will be sent home at the beginning of the year.
- G. Progress reports and reports cards will be sent home regularly.

## **II. Parenting -- Parenting skills are promoted and supported.**

- A. Gravette Middle School, in its parent center, will provide parenting books, magazines, and other informative material regarding responsible parenting.
1. Current selections will be advertised.
  2. Parents will be given an opportunity to check out this material for review.
  3. The parent center is open from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

B. Parents will be encouraged to use the parent center, which is located in the middle school library.

1. The parent center will provide materials to assist parents in their child's academic achievement.
2. The Parent and Family Engagement Committee will determine areas of interest and needs for the parent center.

### **III. Student Learning -- Parents play an integral role in assisting student learning.**

- A. Gravette Middle School will schedule two state-mandated parent/teacher conferences throughout the school year.

### **IV. Volunteering -- Parents are welcome in the school and their support and assistance are sought.**

- A. Gravette Middle School will publish and encourage school staff to use the volunteer resource book, listing the interests and availability of volunteers so the school staff may:

1. Determine how frequently a volunteer would like to participate, including the option of just one time per year.
2. Help match school needs with volunteer interests.

B. Engage in other activities determined by the school administration and faculty to welcome parents into the school.

C. The school policies of Gravette Middle School encourage parents to visit the school.

D. Gravette Middle School will create and distribute a parent/school compact during the first parent/teacher conferences.

### **V. School Decision Making and Advocacy -- Parents are full partners in the decisions that affect children and families.**

- A. Gravette Middle School will include in the school's policy handbook the school's process for resolving parental concerns.

- B. Parents will be provided with current information regarding school policies and practices through the Gravette Middle School Handbook.

**VI. Collaborating with the Community -- Community resources are used to strengthen school, families, and student learning.**

- A. Gravette Middle School will foster student participation in community service through FCCLA, Builders Club, and GATE.
- B. The school will use community resources to strengthen school programs, family practices, and student learning through these organizations: Bright Futures, Angel Tree, and 21st Century Kids.

**VII. Evaluation -- Gravette Middle School will support the development, implementation, and regular evaluation of its program to involve parents in the decisions and practices of the school.**

- A. This will be accomplished through its Parent and Family Engagement Committee, which will:
  - 1. Promote and encourage a welcoming atmosphere to foster parental involvement in the school.
  - 2. Undertake efforts to ensure that parental participation is recognized as an asset to the school.