



Parent Involvement Plan

STANDARD I. COMMUNICATION

Communication between home and school is regular, two-way, and meaningful

To encourage communication with parents, 7-12 Virtual School will:

1. Periodically send home timely information and parenting suggestions concerning:
 - a. Upcoming event in the school and community;
 - b. The recommended role of the parent, student, teacher, and school;
 - c. Ways for parents to become involved in the school and in his or her child's education;
 - d. Calendar of activities planned throughout the school year to encourage parental involvement;
 - e. Maintain a 7-12 Virtual School website and continuously update it throughout the school year.
 - f. At the beginning of the year each student will receive a district calendar of events and a Virtual School year at a glance calendar.
2. Schedule four (4) parent informational sessions throughout the year and parent-teacher conferences.
3. Plan and engage in other activities which will be beneficial to encourage communication with parents including:
 - a. Send weekly Virtual School information to students and parents each Friday.
 - b. Establish opportunities for parent and educators to share "partnering" information such as student strengths and learning preferences;
 - c. Provide clear information regarding grade level standards and expectations, student services, and other pertinent knowledge;
 - d. Send grades and performance data home to parents. Provide support services and follow-up conferences as needed.
 - e. Disseminate information on school policies, discipline procedures assessment tools, and school goals and include parents in any related decision-making processes;
 - f. Conduct conferences with parents at least twice a year, with follow-up as needed;
 - g. Encourage immediate contact between parents and teachers when concerns arise;
 - h. Distribute student work for parent comment and review on a regular basis;
 - i. Translate communication to assist non-English speaking parents as much as is feasible;
 - j. Communicate with parent regarding positive student behavior and achievement, not just regarding misbehavior or failure;
 - k. Provide opportunities for parent to communicate with the principal;
 - l. Promote information activities at which parents, staff and community members can interact.

School Responsibilities:

7-12 Virtual School accepts the following responsibilities related to communication with parents:

- ✓ To formulate educational missions and goals to include both staff and family input;
- ✓ To share positive, not just negative communications;
- ✓ To develop, foster, and promote a responsive, open door communication policy that is defined collaboratively by staff and families;

- ✓ To disseminate information clearly and specifically by using language that is understandable to all parents and free of all jargon;
- ✓ 7-12 Virtual School will use a multi-method approach to communicating information to parents (e.g. emails, phone calls, Websites, progress reports, test results, report cards...);
- ✓ To develop clear and commonly held expectations for interactions with parents;
- ✓ To regularly monitor communications for effectiveness;
- ✓ To involve all school personnel in the communications effort.
- ✓ Establish and maintain a school Instagram account.

STANDARD II. PARENTING

Parenting skills are promoted and supported at 7-12 Virtual School

To promote student learning, 7-12 Virtual School will:

1. Purchase digital resources on the topic of responsible parenting through the school counseling program and other sources, advertise current selections, and give parents an opportunity to access the materials for review.
 - a. Communicate the importance of positive relationships between parents and their children;
 - b. Conduct "Parent Involvement Meetings" to educate parents on what their children are learning and the expectations the school had as well as on other topics of concerns to parents;
 - c. Send home periodic digital information which will assist parents in helping their children learn and grow;
 - d. Reach out to all families, through participation in virtual parent meetings, through telephone calls, home visits, follow-up letters, and other strategies developed throughout the school year.
 - e. Extend a thank you to all parents for their support in the final school newsletter for the year.
2. Plan and engage in other activities that promote and support responsible parenting.
 - a. Establish policies that support and respect family responsibilities, recognizing the variety of parenting traditions and practices within the community's cultural and religious diversity.
 - b. Encourage staff members to demonstrate respect for families and the family's primary role in the rearing of children to become responsible adults.
 - c. Conduct parent workshops that will enhance parenting skills, student support, and post secondary opportunities.
 - d. Inform parents of other community opportunities to attend parent training when available.

School Responsibilities:

7-12 Virtual School accepts the following responsibilities related to parenting and parent involvement:

- ✓ To communicate with parents in an ongoing process using diverse methods, all of which reflect respect for parental input and cultural differences.
- ✓ To teach respectfully, parenting and relationship skills and to share research about parenting in clear, easy to understand communications.
- ✓ To exhibit a receptivity to, and respect for, the ongoing input and concerns of parents.
- ✓ To acknowledge the individual differences and needs among parents.
- ✓ Provide Parent Resources through our School Counselor.
- ✓ Provide services of the district Social Worker to assist families.

STANDARD III. STUDENT LEARNING

Parents play an integral role in assisting student learning at 7-12 Virtual School.

To help parents in assisting students, 7-12 Virtual School will:

1. Have an Open House and Meet Your Teacher Night in a virtual setting where parents are given an overview of:
 - a. What students will learn:
 - i. Inform parents of the expectations of students in Virtual School.
 - ii. Provide information regarding how parents can foster learning at home, give appropriate assistance, monitor homework, and give feedback to teachers.
 - b. How students will be assessed:
 - i. Regularly assign interactive coursework that will require students to discuss and interact with their parents about what they are learning.
 - ii. Create an understanding of the standardized testing process and how parents can assist with preparation at home.
 - c. What parents should expect for their child's education:
 - i. Sponsor workshops or distribute information to assist parents in understanding how students can improve skills, get help when needed, meet class expectations, and perform well on assessments.
 - d. How parents can assist and make a difference in his/her child's education:
 - i. Encourage parents to be continuously involved as full partners in their child's education.
 - ii. Make available resources to increase parent understanding and ability to help their child in various aspects of the education.

School Responsibilities:

7-12 Virtual School staff accepts the following responsibilities related to student learning:

- ✓ To "break down barriers" and encourage student responsibility.
- ✓ To make suggestions in a non-threatening manner.
- ✓ To engage in ongoing communication before a child falls behind.
- ✓ To recognize and respect a parent's desire for their child to succeed.
- ✓ To provide and facilitate a variety of support services.
- ✓ To affirm the idea that all children can learn.
- ✓ To provide high quality instruction linked to national and state standards.
- ✓ To encourage meaningful volunteerism opportunities.
- ✓ To foster a learning community of all who have contact with children.
- ✓ To provide differentiated learning models for students.

STANDARD IV: Volunteering

Parents are welcome at 7-12 Virtual School and their support and assistance are sought.

To encourage parental involvement, 7-12 Virtual School shall:

- 1-Have school policies and procedures that encourage parent to support the school, specifically including:
 - e. Procedures for arranging on-site instruction and support for students.
 - f. Procedures for drop off and pick up of virtual learning packets for at home.
 - g. Procedures allowing parents to conference with their child's teacher when needed.
 - h. Ensure that parents are greeted.
 - i. Educate and assist staff members in creating an inviting climate and effectively utilizing parental involvement.
 - j. Provide a variety of ways in which parents can become involved at 7-12 Virtual School including:
 - i. PTO.
 - ii. Classroom assistance.
 - iii. Homeroom parents.
 - iv. Counselor assistance.
 - v. Special virtual events/field trips.

School/Teacher Responsibilities:

7-12 Virtual School accepts the following responsibilities related to parent volunteerism:

- ✓ To provide training for parents so they can become effective volunteers.
- ✓ To develop and maintain a list of volunteer needs.
- ✓ To provide a welcoming, friendly atmosphere that encourages volunteerism.
- ✓ To provide recognition and rewards.

STANDARD V: 7-12 Virtual School Decision-Making and Advocacy

7-12 Virtual School recognizes that a parent is a full partner in the decisions that affect his or her child and family.

To encourage parents to participate as full partners in the decisions that affect his or her child and family, 7-12 Virtual School shall:

- 1 – Publish in the student handbook the school's process for resolving parental concerns, including how to define the problem, who to approach first, and how to develop solutions.
- 2- Engage in conferences and send out literature that will encourage parents to participate as full partners in the decisions that affect his or her child and family.
- 3 – Encourage PTO involvement.
- 4 – Include parents in advisory committees.
- 5 – Provide parents with current information regarding school policies, practices, and both students and school performance data.
- 6 – Enable parents to participate as partners when setting school goals, developing or evaluating programs and policies or responding to performance data.
- 7 – Encourage and facilitate active parent participation in the decisions that affect students, such as individual personalized education plans.
- 8 – Treat parent concerns with respect and demonstrate genuine interest in developing solutions.

School Responsibilities:

7-12 Virtual School accepts the following responsibilities related to school decision-making and advocacy:

- ✓ To provide an atmosphere that is not intimidating to parents.
- ✓ To develop clear and understandable procedures that enables all to participate.
- ✓ To clearly define areas of responsibility and accountability.
- ✓ To actively recruit parents for advocacy roles.
- ✓ To demonstrate respect for all stakeholders.

STANDARD VI: Collaborating With the Community

7-12 Virtual School recognizes that community resources strengthen school programs, family practices, and student learning.

To take advantage of community resources, 7-12 Virtual School shall:

- 1 – Partner with local businesses and organizations to improve and extend the learning experience of our students.
- 2 – Assist families in accessing resources in the community to provide necessary assistance in their needs, such as Christmas gifts, food, and monetary assistance for medical bills, utility bills and the like.
- 3 – Tap into the expertise in the community for guest speakers, teacher in-service, parenting workshops, and student assemblies.
- 4 – Provide students with field trips to area attractions to extend learning. .
- 5 – Partner with the University of Arkansas to provide a real life experience for future teachers in training.

School Responsibilities:

7-12 Virtual School accepts the following responsibilities related to community collaboration:

- ✓ To develop partnerships with local business and service groups.
- ✓ To implement a structured volunteer program coordinated by the school counselor and a member of the 7-12 Virtual School School PTO.