Welcome! Ardis Ann Middle School has developed a Parent and Family Engagement Plan, in order to encourage parents to become involved as partners with the school in their child’s education. The plan was developed by staff and parents which includes programs and practices that enhance parent and family engagement and reflects the specific needs at AAMS students and their families. The Parent and Family Engagement Plan is comprehensive, coordinated and inclusive. Parent and family engagement roles are varied.

Parent and Family Engagement Committee Members

Ms. Amy Rengers is the AAMS Parent and Family Engagement Facilitator. She can be reached at: arengers@bentonvillek12.org  479.254.5510

Committee Members:
Marilyn Gilchrist ~ Principal
Reid Pierce ~ Assistant Principal
Amy Rengers ~ Counselor and Parent and Family Engagement Facilitator
Jarin Olvera ~ .5 Counselor
Jill Allen ~ Librarian
Stephanie Shockley ~ PTO President

Standard One: Communication

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

To conduct effective communication from school to home and from home to school about school programs and children’s progress AAMS will:

1. Prepare Informational Packets including:
   a. AAMS’s Parent and Family Engagement Plan
   b. Ways for parents to become involved in their child’s education (PTO and Volunteers)
2. To encourage communication with parents, AAMS shall schedule no less than two parent-teacher conferences per school year.
3. The school may plan and engage in other activities determined to be beneficial to encourage communication with parents, such as:
   a. Provide clear information about reports cards and how grades are earned
   b. Home Access Center provides instant access for parents to view their child’s grades and attendance
   c. School newsletter, team newsletter, teacher emails, team emails, school webpage, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram
   d. Tuesday folders will be sent home weekly
   e. Families will be notified of students receiving awards and recognition
   f. Families will be contacted regarding students having academic or behavior problems, as well as, positive behavior and achievement
g. Teachers have access to telephones to communicate with parents before, during, or after school
h. Teachers and administrators have email and/or a school website to communicate with parents
i. Parents have telephone numbers and/or email addresses of the school, principal, assistant principal, teachers, and counselors available and on the AAMS website
j. AAMS will promote informal activities at which parents, staff, and community may interact. (Family/Parent Nights)
k. AAMS will disseminate information clearly and specifically by using language that is understandable to all parents in a multi-method approach (newsletters, website, report cards, and weekly team emails/newsletters)
l. Translate communications to assist non-English speaking parents as much as is feasible

Standard Two: Parenting

Goal: Parenting skills are promoted and supported

To promote student learning AAMS will:

1. Purchase parenting books, magazines, etc., regarding responsible parenting, through the school library and give parents an opportunity to borrow the materials for review
2. Provide parent resources in the counseling center, school library, and online
3. Plan and engage in other activities determined by the school to be beneficial to promoting and supporting responsible parenting, such as:
   a. Parenting articles and/or links to online parenting sites are sent home per classroom and/or school via newsletters, Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram
   b. Parenting books, magazines, etc. available for checkout
   c. Opportunities to attend parenting training (day-time and night-time training available)
   d. Provide families with information on child and adolescent development
4. Provide parents resources with specific strategies that are used in school for academic achievement and social-emotional learning such as:
   a. Research is provided to the parent as to how attendance affects learning
   b. Strategies are provided to the parent on organization, time management, study skills, possible coping skills, test taking strategies,

Standard Three: Student Learning

Goal: Parents will play an integral role in assisting student achievement

To help parents in assisting students, AAMS and/or the district will:

1. Parents will be given a report on the state of the student and an overview of:
   a. What students will be learning, inform them of student expectations in each subject at each grade level and provide information regarding how parents can foster learning at home, give appropriate assistance, monitor homework/grades, and give feedback to teachers (parent ~ teacher communication/conferences, parent ~ team communication/conference, What’s Next Night, Open House, share AAMS STAR Quality Matrix)
   b. What parents should expect for their child’s education, distribute information to assist parents in understanding how students can improve skills, get help when needed, meet class expectations, and perform well on assessments (teacher/team newsletters, school newsletter, parent ~ teacher conferences, parent ~ team conferences, share AAMS STAR Quality Matrix)
2. Schedule regular **Parent and Family Engagement Opportunities** such as:
   a. Open House ~ August
   b. PTO Meetings ~ Monthly
   c. Scholastic Book Fair ~ October and March
   d. Parent/Teacher Conferences ~ October and March
   e. ESL Night ~ October and March
   f. Empower Me Parent Informational Meeting ~ October
   g. SOS (6th grade only) Signs of Suicide Informational Meeting ~ November
   h. Musical Concerts (Band: November, Orchestra: November and May, Choir: December and May)
   i. Spelling Bee ~ December
   j. Recognition Assemblies ~ Monthly
   k. Fine Arts Night ~ May
   l. What’s Next Night ~ May
   m. Other district wide parent nights (TBA)

Due to following guidance from the Arkansas Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), Arkansas Department of Health and/or Bentonville Public Schools protocols, visitors and in-person large group gatherings are prohibited. Therefore, parent and family engagement events for the 2020-2021 school year will largely be held virtually. Exact dates will be determined as guidelines become more available.

**Standard Four: Volunteering**

Goal: Parents are welcome in the school and their support and assistance is sought

To organize volunteers to support and assist, AAMS will:

1. Distribute a volunteer information sign-up sheet that the PTO will then organize according to interest, frequency, and availability of the volunteers
   a. Include options for those who are available to help from home such as:
      i. AAMS Gives Back
      ii. Cutting out lamination
      iii. Helping to prepare an activity to be used in the classroom with students
      iv. Sending in items needed by classroom teachers
2. Host a parent volunteer orientation training which includes signing a confidentiality agreement
3. Engage in activities determined by the school to welcome parents such as:
   a. Provide training for parents to become effective volunteers
   b. Provide a welcoming and friendly environment that encourages volunteerism
   c. Provide a designated space for parents to volunteer
   d. Easy and effective sign-in method using Raptor check in/out
   e. AAMS Gives Back
   f. Tuesday folder parent
   g. Homeroom events
   h. Teacher preparation of activity (cutting, gluing, copying)
   i. Fun and Field Day
   j. Scholastic Book Fair
   k. Hospitality events
   l. Snack Bag organizing
   m. PTO sponsored activities
4. Provide recognition and rewards to volunteers
   a. Luncheon provided by the staff to thank each of our volunteers
Standard Five: School Decision Making and Advocacy

**Goal:** Recognize that a parent is a full partner in the decisions that affect his/her child and family.

To encourage parents to participate as full partners in the decisions that affect their children, AAMS will:

1. Publish the school’s steps for resolving parental concerns, including how to define the problem, whom to approach first, and how to develop solutions (handbook)
2. Support the formation of a PTO to identify and respond to issues of interest to parents
3. Provide parents with current information regarding school policies, practices, and both student and school performance data (district website, school website, school newsletter, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram)
4. Develop clear and understandable procedures that enable all to participate
5. Treat parent concerns with respect and demonstrate a genuine interest in developing solutions
6. Notify parents of the Bentonville District Survey that will allow for specific feedback
   a. Surveys will be used to determine changes, additions, deletions, and improvement to parent and family engagement opportunities

Standard Six: Collaborating with the Community

**Goal:** To recognize that community resources strengthen school programs, family practices, and student learning

To take advantage of community resources, AAMS will:

1. AAMS will utilize business and community groups for resources
   a. Snack Bags
   b. Clothing
   c. Shoes
   d. School Supplies
   e. Hygiene kits (hair cuts, glasses, dental work)
2. Participate in Sharing and Caring, community guest speakers, community mentors, local field trips to Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art and the Scott Family Amazeum, local restaurant/food truck spirit nights
3. Tap into the expertise in the community for guest speakers for teacher in-service, parenting workshops, student assemblies etc
4. Share community events with students and parents (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram)
5. Partner with Ignite students from Bentonville High School to teach and to assist students with their learning

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