

Old High Middle School

Parent Involvement Plan

1. The Parent Involvement Program at OHMS, developed by staff and parents, includes programs practices that enhance parent involvement and reflects the specific needs of OHMS students and their families.
2. The Parent Involvement Plan is comprehensive, coordinated and inclusive. Parent involvement roles are varied.
3. Communication between home and school is regular, two-way and meaningful. To encourage communication with parents, OHMS will:

Prepare and distribute informational packets to each OHMS family describing:

- OHMS' parent involvement program
- The various ways parents can volunteer at OHMS
- Planned parent involvement opportunities
- Parent communication methods
- The role of parents, teachers and students. This information is also available in student agenda planners.
- Parent volunteer and interest surveys. (Includes the option of volunteering one time per year from home.)
- PTO membership form and invitation to join

Two-Way, Meaningful Communication Methods:

- Weekly communication folders, known as Tuesday Folders, are sent home to parents containing student work for parent comment and review along with other school information.

http://oldhigh.bentonvillek12.org/pages/Old_High_Middle_School

PTO, in conjunction with OHMS, sends out Student Announcements weekly to share important information and happenings within our school. Parents are asked to sign up for the announcements.

Peach Jar and Blackboard are provided from the district for parents to view informational flyers regarding school and community activities.

Parents are encouraged to sign up for team e-mail distribution lists. Teams communicate with parents daily via e-mails regarding homework assignments, upcoming projects and parent involvement events.

- Staff member's e-mail addresses can be accessed through Internet Viewer and OHMS' web-page:

http://oldhigh.bentonvillek12.org/pages/Old_High_Middle_School

Good parenting skills are promoted and supported.

At OHMS we will:

- Purchase parenting books, magazines, and other informative material regarding responsible parenting
- Advertise current selections, and give parents the opportunity to borrow the materials for review.
- A Parent Center has been developed for parents and families and includes a lending library with a variety of materials of interest to parents of pre-adolescent children. Periodicals, brochures, books, etc. that focus on parenting are available for loan through the Parent Center.
- Reading selections from the Parent Center are regularly highlighted in school newsletters to increase parent awareness of the available resources.
- The Parent Center also includes information regarding available community non-profit and private referral sources. This information is disseminated to families as needed.
- The Parent Center houses a designated parent computer.

Parents play an integral role in assisting student learning. In order to promote parents' efforts, OHMS schedules regular parent involvement meetings at which parents are given a report on the state of the school and an overview of:

- What students will be learning
- How students will be assessed
- What parents should expect for their child's education
- How parents can assist and make a difference in their children's education.

OHMS schedules regular Parent Involvement meetings, such as:

- Open House
- Academic Round-Up Night
- What's Next Night
- Club Showcase
- Fall and Spring Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Presentations that discuss different topics (each middle school hosts a Parent Night)

At these meetings, parents receive a report of the state of the school, building test results, curriculum expectations and standards, how students are assessed, and information regarding how they can help children achieve academically.

OHMS promotes and encourages a welcoming atmosphere to foster

Parental Involvement and volunteer participation.

- OHMS does not have policies that hinder parent involvement at school.
- The Parent Involvement coordinator encourages staff members to utilize the volunteer resource document published by PTO, which lists the interests and availability of volunteers.
- The information on the parent survey determines the frequency of each parent's desired participation, and includes the option of volunteering just one time per year, performing the work at home.
- The Parent Facilitator ensures that parent participation is acknowledged.

OHMS recognizes that parents are full partners in decisions that affect the school and children's learning, and therefore:

OHMS includes the process for resolving parental concerns is described in various newsletters during the school year. The process includes:

- How to define a problem
- Whom to approach first
- How to develop solutions

Community resources strengthen school programs, family practices and student learning. To capitalize on community resources, OHMS:

- Encourages and supports the Parent Teacher Organization, which fosters parental and community involvement at OHMS.
- PTO leaders' input is sought and utilized in appropriate decisions affecting students and families.

The Parent Involvement Coordinator :

- Supports the evaluation of the Parent Involvement Program.
- Ensures that parental participation is recognized.

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