

Bonnie Grimes Elementary

Parent Involvement Plan

Updated August 2018

Our parent involvement plan has been prepared to help answer many of the questions students and parents usually have concerning the activities and procedures for the successful daily operation of our school. We believe that following these suggestions will help cultivate an orderly environment conducive to learning. Creating a common ground of clearly understood procedures will enable us to provide the best possible educational experience for every student.

A child's education is a responsibility shared by both the school and the family. Our students at Bonnie Grimes Elementary are diverse in culture, language, skills and needs. We value parents/guardians as an integral component of the school's ability to provide for the educational success of our children.

Bonnie Grimes Elementary School believes that engaging parents/guardians in their child's educational endeavors is essential to improving student achievement and that the school should foster and support consistent parent/guardian involvement in all of its educational endeavors. The faculty, staff and parents/guardians must work together as knowledgeable partners.

Roles and Responsibilities

For students:

- Be on time to class and attend school every day
- Come to school prepared with books, needed supplies and assignments as directed by teachers
- Follow directions and treat staff members and other students with respect
- Maintain a positive attitude toward learning and believe in her/his ability to succeed
- Respect themselves, the rights and property of others
- Complete homework daily and ask for help when needed
- Read daily outside of school time
- Give parent/guardian all notices and information from the school (daily or in Tuesday folder)

For parents/guardians:

- Monitor attendance and ensure that child arrives at school on time
- Make sure homework is completed
- Monitor television and video games, keeping both appropriate and at a minimum
- Volunteer in classroom/school
- Participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the child's education
- Stay informed about child's education and communicate with the school
- Serve, to the extent possible, on policy advisory groups

For school staff:

- Provide a quality instructional program in an integrated setting for all students
- Provide a safe school environment
- Provide programs which will respond to the social, emotional, personal and physical developmental needs of all students
- Assist parents/guardians in helping their child develop good character traits necessary to participate in school and the community
- Provide weekly communication regarding classroom activities and school services/event

Goal: communication between home and school will be consistent, two-way, and meaningful.

In order to promote this goal, Bonnie Grimes Elementary will:

1. Distribute informational packets to parents/guardians containing:
 - a. Bonnie Grimes Elementary parent involvement plan which includes roles of students, parents and school
 - b. Diverse ways for parents to become involved his/her child's education (PTO, PADRES, reading volunteers, work room volunteers, etc.)
 - c. A monthly school calendar
2. Encourage communication with parents by scheduling no less than two parent-teacher conferences per school year
3. Plan and engage in other activities determined to be beneficial in encouraging communication with parents, such as:
 - a. Providing clear information about report cards and how grades are earned
 - b. Sending home school newsletters/class newsletters
 - c. Providing weekly communication through Tuesday folders
 - d. Notifying families of students receiving Grimes Good Egg, Academic Star Awards and other recognitions
 - e. Contacting families regarding students having academic or behavior problems
 - f. Communicating by telephone, e-mail and/or school website during or after school
 - g. Providing telephone numbers and/or e-mail addresses of the school, principal, teachers and counselors through the *Bonnie Grimes* website, which can be found under the *Schools* tab, then *Elementary* tab at www.rogersschools.net
 - h. An open door policy between faculty, administration and parents/guardians
 - i. Promoting activities that will support parents and community members who are limited or non-English speakers, such as PADRES and Family ESOL classes
 - j. Disseminating information clearly and specifically by using language that is understandable to all parents in a multi-method/bilingual (English/Spanish) approach

Goal: parenting skills will be promoted and supported.

In order to promote student learning, Bonnie Grimes Elementary will:

1. Provide parents the opportunity to check out parenting books and DVDs
2. Maintain a parent center in the Library
3. Plan and engage in other activities determined by the school to be beneficial in promoting and supporting responsible parenting, such as:
 - a. Sending newsletters home from the classrooms and school office
 - b. Maintaining a school website that contains links to educational/parenting websites
 - c. Communicating with parents/guardians in an ongoing manner, using diverse methods reflecting a respect for parental input and cultural differences
 - d. Providing family parenting classes
 - e. Ensuring access to social workers through Rogers Public School

Goal: parents will play an integral role in assisting student learning.

To help parents in assisting students, Bonnie Grimes Elementary will:

1. Host a "Meet the Teacher" Night, prior to the first day of school, where parents may bring their child to meet their child's teacher and drop off school supplies
2. Invite Kindergarten parents/guardians to Kindergarten Orientation scheduled an hour prior to Meet the Teacher Night so that parents can learn about transportation, procedures for drop off and pick up, and class schedules
3. Present the State of the School address during the October PTO meeting, including:
 - a. What students will be learning (curriculum guides and newsletter)
 - b. How students will be assessed (report cards/progress reports)
 - c. What parents should expect for their child's education
 - d. How parents can assist and make a difference in his/her child's education
4. Provide opportunities for parents to receive information on how to assist their child with improving reading and math skills
5. Affirm the idea that all children can learn

Goal: parents will feel welcome in the school, as will their support and assistance.

In order to assure this goal, Bonnie Grimes Elementary will:

- allow parents to pick-up his/her child inside the school building
- provide an opportunity for parents/guardians to visit their child's classroom during school events
- provide a welcoming, friendly atmosphere that encourages volunteerism
- encourage volunteer opportunities to community members, such as Altrusa, Junior League of Rogers, employees at Wal-Mart and members of Central United Methodist Church
- train volunteers who will read with children
- encourage families and the community to be involved at the school by tutoring, helping with homework activities, leading clubs and activities, etc.
- recognize volunteers during a program at the end of the year

Goal: parents will participate as full partners in the decisions that affect his/her child's education.

To support this goal, Bonnie Grimes Elementary will:

1. Provide the following list for resolving parental concerns:
 - a. Parents should contact the appropriate school personnel (classroom teacher, auxiliary teacher, etc.) as soon as a concern arises
 - b. If the matter is not resolved, the parents/guardians may contact the principal.
 - c. The principal will conference with the appropriate personnel
 - d. A meeting may be held with the parents/guardians, principal, and involved school personnel to attempt to resolve the problem
 - e. In order to discuss all pertinent concerns, it is recommended that the parent/guardian record the concerns and all pertinent facts and bring this to all meetings. In this way nothing will be considered overlooked during the meeting. A list of possible solutions to be considered should be made as well
 - f. Possible solutions that might be available and appropriate will be discussed by those at the meeting

2. Encourage parent participation in PTO, PADRES and other groups that identify and respond to issues of interest to parents. Bonnie Grimes Elementary will:
 - a. Provide parents/guardians with current information regarding school policies, practices, and both student and school performance data
 - b. Survey parents for their ideas and input on various school decisions
 - c. Develop clear and understandable procedures that enable all to participate
 - d. Provide training and follow-up activities based on data from the survey above

Goal: strengthen school programs, family practices and student learning through collaboration with the community.

To promote collaboration with the community Bonnie Grimes Elementary will:

1. Provide many opportunities for parents to serve on District and School committees and advisory groups
2. Engage in other activities that access community resources including the following:
 - a. Enlisting business and community group resources for school supplies and clothing for needy students (Community Kid's Closet, Central United Methodist Church, Caring and Sharing, Kiwanis, Big Brothers and Big Sisters)
 - b. Providing opportunities for school-based therapy to be delivered for students who are patients of Ozark Guidance Center (OGC), Day Spring, etc.
 - c. Maintaining a structured volunteer program
 - d. Providing opportunities for the school choir to perform at the Arkansas State Capitol
 - e. Utilizing Central United Methodist Church to serve as a community partner in diverse ways
 - f. Sponsoring "spirit nights" at local restaurants (PTO)
 - g. Soliciting local businesses to donate supplies, materials and services for school events
 - h. Serving economically disadvantaged parents/students through charitable agencies
 - i. Providing opportunities for all students to visit local venues for field trips, including an overnight trip to Ozark Natural Science Center

Liz Matheson is the Parent Involvement Facilitator. She can be reached by phone at 479-631-3660 or via e-mail at liz.matheson@rpsar.net.