

Elmwood Middle School

Parent and Family Engagement Plan

Parenting skills are promoted and supported at Elmwood Middle School.

To promote student learning, the school will offer support to parents by providing resources to improve parenting techniques and skills.

- Parent Center
 - a. Located in the front foyer
 - b. Parents can find parenting books, magazines, and other informative materials regarding responsible parenting.
 - c. Materials may be checked out of the parent resource center.
- Parenting websites and toll free numbers can be provided to parents. This information may be distributed by teams throughout the year.
- Counselors are available to share information about free parenting classes and workshops offered by the Jones Center for Families. They also have information on programs and resources within the community that provide support services to families.

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

To encourage communication with parents, Elmwood Middle School will:

- Prepare family kits (distributed during fall conferences) in grades 6-8 that include the following:
 - a. The school's parental involvement program.
 - b. The recommended role of the parent, student, teacher, and school.
 - c. Ways for parents to become involved in the school and his or her child's education.
 - d. Activities planned throughout the school year to encourage parental involvement. (see monthly newsletter)
 - e. A system to allow parent and teachers to communicate in a regular, two-way, meaningful manner with the child's teacher and the school's administrative staff.
 - f. Volunteer opportunities for parents.
 - g. Information regarding PTO that includes events, volunteer opportunities and an application for membership. (see monthly newsletter)
 - h. School webpage address
 - i. Anti-bullying policy (see Elmwood Middle School website <http://www.rogersschools.net/>)
- Schedule two parent/teacher conferences per school year. One conference will be held in October and the other in February.
- Establish opportunities for parents and educators to share information such as student strengths and learning preferences.
- Use a variety of communication tools seeking to facilitate two-way interaction between parents, teachers/administration that include but are not limited to conferences, phone calls, emails, and letters.
- Send home report cards and progress reports. Support services and follow-up conferences will take place as needed. Report cards will be sent home quarterly; progress reports will be sent week five of each quarter.
- Send home communication in English and Spanish.
- Send out emails to parents regarding classroom instruction and assignments.
- Encourage parents to visit the school and/or have lunch with their student anytime.

- Send a monthly newsletter to keep parents informed of upcoming events and happenings at the school will be sent by the PTO and teams.

Parents are welcome at Elmwood. Your support and assistance are valuable to the success of the school.

To welcome parents in the school:

- Elmwood does not have any school policies or procedures that would discourage a parent from visiting the school.
 - a. Parents may visit their child's classroom.
 - b. Parents are welcome anytime (lunch, volunteer, serve as a mentor and/or tutor)
- Elmwood welcomes community members and senior citizens as guest speakers and student tutors. We host an annual Career Day where many of our guest speakers are parents.
- A parent involvement survey will be sent home during Fall conferences to gather information from a parent's viewpoint.

Parents play an integral role in assisting and promoting student learning at home.

To help parents in assisting students, the school shall:

- Host a parent night where parents are given a report on the state of the school as well as an overview of:
 - a. What students will be learning;
 - b. How students will be assessed;
 - c. What parents should expect for their child's education and;
 - d. How parents can assist with and make a difference in his or her child's education.

Parents are full partners in the decision making process that affects his or her child and family.

Elmwood encourages parents to participate as full partners in the decisions that affect his or her child and family, the school shall:

- Frequently publish the school's process for resolving parental concerns, including how to define the problem, whom to approach first, and how to develop solutions.
- Conduct seminars hosted by Elmwood Academic Coaches to inform parents on how to interpret Benchmark test data and internet safety.
- Recruit parents to serve on the ACSIP team (share ideas, needs, and desires for the school).

Elmwood recognizes that community resources strengthen school programs, family practices and student learning.

To take advantage of community resources, the school shall:

- Engage in other activities that the school determines will use community resources to strengthen school programs, family practices, and student learning.
 - a. Elmwood will seek support for students and parents by contacting the local businesses for coupons and prizes for activities and events.
 - b. Student organizations with the assistance of parents and teachers will provide service to non-profit agencies in the community.
 - c. Develop partnerships with local businesses and service groups.

GO RAIDERS!

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