

New Market Elementary School

2011-2012 Parent Involvement Plan

The Jefferson County Schools Family and Community Engagement Plan is based on the concept that families have a major influence on their children's achievement in school and through life. As a result of this influence, positive results occur when schools, families, and community groups support learning. The New Market Elementary School Family and Community Engagement Plan supports these beliefs.

New Market Elementary School faculty and staff expect that families and community members are integral part of our school. Parents, family members and community members are welcome in our school and are encouraged to volunteer in school activities and participate in education of our students. An Open House/Parent Involvement Meeting is held in the fall to introduce new parents to the school and to invite them and the returning parents to meet with faculty members and to visit each classroom. Students are given a student handbook at the beginning of each year, or when a student enrolls at the school. Teachers read and discuss the entire handbook with their class. Students are then asked to read the handbook with their parents, and have the parents sign a page in the book, returning it to the school, stating that they have read the book together and understand its contents. The student handbook is easy to read in other languages, and our ELL teacher translates for those parents who need additional help throughout the school year.

Parents are informed of student progress through mid-term reports, report cards and progress reports throughout the school year. They are also given opportunities to meet with teachers at Parent-Teacher Conferences twice a year. Think Link assessment results are sent home with students. Also, through the student handbook and teacher notes to parents, they are encouraged to contact teachers before or after school or during a teacher's planning period if they wish. Teachers use student planners, class notebooks and daily calendars to inform parents of students' daily behavior. The Pre-K teacher holds monthly parent involvement meetings. All parents are invited to join and attend PTO meetings throughout the year and are encouraged to ask questions and present ideas or suggestions at these meetings. The PTO officers organize schedules for parent volunteers when they can spare the time to assist with school activities. There are many opportunities throughout the school year for parents to participate in school and PTO sponsored activities. Annual activities include school and PTO fundraisers, Christmas in Jefferson County collection of green beans, collections of Box Tops for Education, Campbell's Soup Labels, Food City Receipts, and Nestle Water Labels, as well as membership/support of the school's Relay for Life Team, and contributions to the United Way. Our Principal routinely teaches students that they should always be willing to give back to their community, and uses these opportunities to set an example of how to do so.

Parents are kept informed of school activities through school wide newsletters, PTO newsletters, teachers' classroom newsletters, the school district's website, the school's website, through a large outdoor sign at the school, and with the One Call Now System. Parents are given an opportunity to look at curriculum for each grade level at a school-wide function. Assessments are explained through brochures and at Open House, as well as during RTI, 504 and student-support team meetings. Annually, at the Open House meeting, the Principal explains the curriculum and assessments used in our school as well as the school improvement plan, its process, findings, and action steps to achieve the goals set forth therein. The state report card is published in the local newspaper. A copy of the curriculum standards is available for view on-line as well as in the school office and library at any time. Think-Link and other assessment tools will be used throughout the school year with results sent home to parents.

Parents of pre-kindergarten students are offered Parenting Education Classes through the Family Resource Center. These classes have a developmental education focus and give parents suggestions for activities that can be done at home. In addition, parents who have their child screened at the Family Resource Center prior to entering kindergarten will receive quarterly newsletters with helpful parenting tips. The New Market Elementary pre-kindergarten teachers and assistants make home visits to each of their students. They also provide training to parents during regularly scheduled parent meetings.

Parents in need may sign up for the Second Harvest Food for Kids Program. Students are given enough food from the five basic food groups to take home on Fridays to insure they have something to eat over the weekend. The school has a team in the Jefferson County Relay for Life event that raises money for the American Cancer Society. Parents, students, faculty and staff are included on the team. The PTO sells t-shirts that are color-coordinated with students' grade level. Parents and community members may also purchase the shirts which sport the school logo and motto: "Caring, Sharing, and Learning for Life". These shirts can be seen worn throughout the community.

Parents are asked to serve on the Family and Community Engagement committee, the School Improvement Plan committee, the School Health Index committee and to serve on the PTO Executive Board. Parents are invited to attend various music programs throughout the school year and the Pre-kindergarten and fifth grade graduations as well as Honors Day each spring. Parents are asked to participate in the schools' Book Character Day on Halloween to read to classes; on Veterans' Day to honor those who serve or who have served; at the Book Fair; Family Math & Reading Night, and at other school-wide events. Parents are encouraged to attend special events each year such as field day, fun day, county-wide elementary field day, the school and county-wide spelling bees, scholars' bowl tournaments; talent show; chorus; and drama club performances.

Parents are given many opportunities to participate in the decision making process of New Market Elementary School. Parents are given the opportunity each spring to request a teacher. Their input is important to the process of

creating class rosters. They can choose to join the PTO to support on-going programs of the school; to serve on various committees such as updating the School Health Index committee. Parents are invited to serve on the school wide committee that approves allocation of Title 1 school resources.

Parents are asked to participate, communicate, and work closely with their child each day to boost their learning and be involved in their education. The principal sends a letter to students and parents through the handbook that stresses the importance of communication-through notes, email, phone calls, and meetings between parents, teachers and students. The principal is readily accessible to parents and the entire faculty and staff truly cares about each student and their achievement.