

White Pine School

Family Engagement Plan

As parents of students at White Pine School, you are extremely important to us. Our commitment to helping your child be successful cannot be accomplished without your help. Parents and stakeholders alike are involved in school improvement. This plan is a grouping of information that can be useful to you by offering ways to become involved at White Pine School and in your child's academic programming. Our goal is to make sure that all parents are kept informed and that one's native language is not a barrier.

Parent Teacher Organization

We encourage parents to become active in our PTO. This organization spends a great deal of time helping the school obtain needed materials and resources. Recently, the PTO was successful in getting two new playground units and new cafeteria tables. The PTO is also working on ideas to help with replacing the gym floor. PTO has a webpage linked to the school website and for questions or concerns regarding PTO news or membership; you can email Debbie Worley at Debbie.Worley@employbridge.net, or Angie Wilson at wpwilson4@charter.net.

Title I Parent Involvement Party

We are a school-wide Title I school, which means we receive federal funds to benefit all students due to our demographics. Every fall we have a Title I Parent Involvement Party that explains our participation with Title I. All parents are encouraged to attend. There is also a Hispanic Parent Involvement Night for the parents of Hispanic Kindergarten children only. We hope to expand this to include the parents of any Hispanic children in the school in the coming years. Mrs. Patterson, Literacy Coach, coordinates parent involvement activities. These activities include Pre K-8th grades.

Volunteering

We welcome parents to participate in the daily happenings at White Pine School. Parents may sign up with their child's teacher to volunteer or observe in the classroom. Parent volunteers are especially important to our literacy program. Parents can be wonderful, encouraging role models to other children, as well as their own.

Newsletters and Class Webpages

Newsletters are a great way for parents to keep up with what is going on daily in the classroom. Newsletters also provide information regarding curriculum, instruction and assessment. In addition, newsletters are useful in helping parents remember important upcoming events. Newsletters are available in Spanish. Look for your child's weekly newsletter. Class webpages are a great way for parents to keep up to date on class activities, homework assignments, and things that are needed for the classroom. Please be sure to check out your child's class webpage on the White Pine School website.

Monitoring Progress

The school year at White Pine School is divided into four nine-week grading periods. Grade cards go out at the end of the nine weeks. However, mid-term grades are also sent out each nine weeks before the official grade cards so that parents can be aware of their child's academic achievement and hopefully prevent any undesired grades. Contact the school for any questions, concerns, or additional assistance, such as interpreting student's progress.

Conferences/Meetings

Parent-teacher conferences are held in September and in March at White Pine School. Parents are encouraged to attend these conferences to voice any concerns they may have. In addition, discussing the changes in Content Standards at these meetings may make parents more aware of the demanding academic standards taught in the classroom. If additional meeting times are needed, our faculty are more than happy to make appointments with parents during planning times or after school.

County and School Website

The Jefferson County Schools website found at <http://jc-schools.net> is a great resource for both students and parents. The site contains many useful links to activities and information. On the school website, <http://jc-schools.net/wps>, you will also find that White Pine School staff, including instructional assistants, are all highly qualified. In addition, from the link to the Tennessee State Department of Education found at <http://www.state.tn.us/education/reportcard/index.shtml>, parents may obtain information on a

variety of topics including curriculum, assessment, and proficiency levels. They can also access the Tennessee Report Card and T-CAP scores for White Pine School.

Parent Training

They county website also contains links for parent training. The “Literacy Lane” link contains tips for reading with your child. The “Parents “ link has a large list of helpful websites, and the “Family Resource Center” link contains pre-school activities, parenting strategies, and information for families with various needs and concerns. White Pine School has an (ELL) English Language Learner teacher and a full-time interpreter that can help with understanding newsletters and other school news. Our Pre-K classroom at White Pine School is another source to reach ELL students and their families to create a strong school to home connection and to establish early interventions.

School-Parent Compact

In meeting the requirements for schools being funded by Title I, our school administrators, faculty, and parents have designed a school parent compact. The compact describes our commitment to quality curriculum and instruction and to establishing a safe learning environment. It also includes information about conferences/meetings, grade reports, access to staff and parental responsibilities. A copy of the school-parent compact will be sent out at the beginning of each school year. Additional copies will be available in our front office. The School-Parent Compact is also available on our school’s website.

Olweus Bullying Prevention Program

The Olweus Bullying Prevention Program (OBPP) will be implemented at White Pine School in conjunction with the community of White Pine in January 2012. Through the Olweus program, White Pine School will be developing ways to carry the anti-bullying message community-wide. This effort will be in collaboration with students, teachers, school staff, parents, families, and other community members.

Staff Training

Staff training will be provided throughout the school year during in-service and professional development sessions. Understanding Poverty and the Nine Essentials of Classroom Management will provide White Pine Staff with information and skills to create school/home communication. The following training sessions will be provided but not limited to: Curriculum information training, Instruction/assessment training, Literacy training, Technology training & Math training.

* Copies of this family engagement plan will be distributed to all parents with students at White Pine School in August. Additional copies will be available to the local community at the White Pine Library and on our school’s website. The process for updating this plan will be done collaboratively on an annual basis to better meet the needs of the students, parents, and school. Any additional comments or questions may be submitted to the principal at walkerb1@k12tn.net.