

# Bear Creek Middle School



## Family Engagement Plan and School-Family Compact 2023 - 2024

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### What is Title I?

Our school is identified as a Title I school as part of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). Title I is designed to support State and local school reform efforts tied to challenging state academic standards to reinforce and enhance efforts to improve teaching and learning for students. Title I programs must be based on effective means of improving student achievement and include strategies to support parental involvement. All Title I schools must work collaboratively with all parents to develop a written family engagement plan / policy. To ensure this is achieved, we invite all families to an evening of learning and sharing about our Title I program, our school family engagement policy, schoolwide plan, and the school-family compacts. Invitations will be emailed and posted in the school newsletter, social media, and school website.

### **School Family Engagement Plan**

#### What is it?

The school family engagement plan for shared student achievement describes how our school will provide opportunities to improve family engagement and support student learning. Our school values contributions and involvement in establishing an equal partnership for the common goal of improving student achievement. This plan describes the different ways that our school will support family engagement and how families can help plan and participate in activities and events to promote student learning at school and at home.

#### How is it revised?

Every year our school reviews all the input and feedback provided by families to revise this plan in an effort to meet our community's needs and recommendations. Our school gathers feedback and input through several events and activities (i.e. Spring Planning Meeting, Comprehensive Needs Assessment Survey, during family engagement events, in-person and online feedback forms, etc.).

#### Who is it for?

All students participating in the Title I, Part A program, and their families are encouraged and invited to fully participate in the opportunities described in this plan. Our school will provide full opportunities for the participation of families with limited English, families with disabilities and families of migratory children.

#### Where is it available?

At the beginning of the year, the plan is given to all students. The plan will also be posted on the school website. Families can also retrieve a copy of this plan in the Family Resource Center.

## Reservation of funds

Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, our school agreed to allow the district to use the 1% set aside for family engagement to fund a district-wide Family Engagement Specialist.

## Technical Assistance

The district will provide clear guidance and communication to assist our school in developing adequate family engagement plans, activities and events that address the recommendations made by families during the comprehensive needs assessment survey as well as other input provided throughout the school year.

## Family Resource Center

Come visit the Family Resource Center to check out books and materials to use at home with your child. Computers are available for families.

Monday-Friday 8:30am-4:00pm

## School Governance Team

Our school invites all families to join us at a School Governance Team meeting to share ideas and ways to involve other families to build partnerships with School, families and the community. The team will meet monthly during the School year, but families can also submit their ideas and suggestions at any School activity, event, and meeting, as well as through our family surveys and websites.

## Share your thoughts

We want to hear from you. If you have any suggestions or if there is any part of this plan that you feel is not satisfactory with the students' and the school's goals for academic achievement, please contact us.

## District Parent Advisory Council

Our school district invites all families to join us at the Parent Advisory Council meetings to share ideas and ways to engage other parents to build partnerships with the schools, families and community. Please use the following QR code to get more information about the Parent Advisory Council and to submit an interest form.



## How we are promoting and supporting Family Engagement?

Our school will take the following measures to promote and support families as an important foundation of the school in order to strengthen the school and reach our schools goals. We will:

- Ensure that all information related to school and family programs, meetings, and other activities is published in both English and Spanish, posted on the school website, and included in the monthly school newsletter for all families.
- Provide trainings four times per year for staff during their planning/professional development periods on strategies to improve communication with families and ideas to increase family engagement. Staff will also share best practices during regularly scheduled faculty meetings.
- Partner with early childhood programs, middle and high schools, college and career ready resources or organizations, parent resource centers, or other programs (as applicable) to help prepare families and their children for successful school transitioning.
- Communicate with all families and the community on a regular basis regarding school wide events and activities, through phone messages, social media, and flyers.
- Share information in English and Spanish on the school website and during school events for families to understand the school's academic standards and assessments as well as the ways families can monitor their child's progress and work with educators.
- Work with our families to develop relevant trainings and helpful presentations to educate our staff on the importance of family engagement.
- Collect feedback from families at all events, post feedback form on the school website in order to respond to families' request for additional support for family engagement activities/events. Provide alternate meeting times or digital copies of meeting materials upon request.

## Goals for Student Achievement

### District Academic & Student Success Goals

1. Implement a K-12 vertically and horizontally aligned curriculum that prepares students for academic and career success.
2. Implement system and school improvement processes that result in improved instructional practice and high levels of student academic achievement.
3. Ensure all students have access to a safe and positive learning environment resulting in healthy social development, increased academic outcomes, and improved graduation rates.

### BCMS School Improvement Goals

#### **Goal 1: School Culture**

- BCMS will decrease student behaviors that disrupt classroom learning environments as measured by recorded disciplinary events for classroom disruption, disrespect, and refusal to comply by 30%.

#### **Goal 2: Math**

- BCMS will decrease the percentage of students performing at the developing and below categories on the GMA Math EOG.
  - 6th - 81.27% (2023) to 60.15% (2024)
  - 7th - 76.8% (2023) to 56.88% (2024)
  - 8th - 74.23% (2023) to 56.33% (2024)

#### **Goal 3: ELA**

- BCMS will decrease the percentage of students performing at the developing and below categories on the GMA ELA EOG.
  - 6th - 68.92% (2023) to 54.58% (2024)
  - 7th - 65.78% (2023) to 52.25% (2024)
  - 8th - 71.43% (2023) to 50.91% (2024)

## Building Partnerships

Our school offers ongoing events and programs to provide families and students with access to our staff. If you would like to volunteer, if you have any questions, comments/suggestions and/or if you need child care or transportation to participate in our programs, please contact: **dana.mann@barrow.k12.ga.us**.

Events and other information for this school year:

- 6th Grade Orientation
- Open House
- Title I Meetings
  - Fall
  - Spring
- Family-Teacher conferences
- Student-Led Conferences
- Rising 6th Grade Visits
- School website
- Social media posts/announcements
- Contact through Remind
- Family Resource Center available
  - M-F, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm
- Curriculum Nights



## Family Engagement

Our school believes that family engagement means the participation of families in regular two-way and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- That families play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
- That families are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school and at home;
- That families are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory councils to assist in the education of their child.

## Communication about Student Learning

Teachers at our school believe that consistent communication with families is an integral component to student success. Teachers communicate utilizing the following means:

- Emails and Remind messages
- Monthly School Newsletters
- Progress reports
- Student-Led Conferences
- Parent and Student Portal
- Curriculum and family engagement events

## School-Family Compacts

As part of this plan, our staff and families developed a school-family compact, which is an agreement that families, teachers, and students developed that explains how families and teachers will work together to make sure all our students reach grade-level standards. The compacts will be reviewed and updated annually based on feedback from families, students and teachers during the Annual Needs Assessment event. The school-family compact are to be kept at home with the family as a reminder of their commitment.

## What is a School-Family Compact?

Our family-school compact for achievement is an agreement that outlines responsibilities of the school, families, and students to help all students reach their highest academic potential.

Effective compacts:

- Link to academic achievement goals
- Focus on school learning
- Share strategies that staff, families, and students can use
- Explain how families and teachers can communicate about student progress
- Describe opportunities for families to observe, volunteer, and participate in the classroom

## Jointly Developed

Teachers, staff, families, School Governance Team, and students worked together to formulate an agreement that will benefit every member of our school community through joint meetings, surveys and the school website. Throughout the school year we provide all families several of opportunities to join us in developing and/or revising our Family Engagement Plan and school-family compact. All families can participate in:

- The Comprehensive Needs Assessment Survey
- The Spring Planning Meeting
- The District Parent Advisory Council
- In-person / Online Feedback



# Teachers, Families and Students {Working Together for Success}

## School Responsibilities

As a school, we will...

- Provide specific activities/strategies to families for at-home learning and to promote student growth on identified school/grade level academic achievement goals.
- Hold family-teacher conferences during which the individual child's achievement will be discussed.
- Provide families with frequent reports on their students' progress.
- Provide families opportunities to volunteer, participate in their students' classes, and observe classroom activities.

## Family Responsibilities

As a family, we will...

- Maintain current information in the Family Update Website
- Utilize strategies provided by the school to support student learning.
- Work with teachers to set reasonable expectations.
- Participate in family engagement activities for all academic content.
- Use the Parent Portal and Remind to stay informed about our student's academic progress, guide practice, and review at home.
- Support reading, writing, social studies, science, and math practice at home.

## Student Responsibilities

As a student, I will...

- Practice reading, writing and math at home, and ask for help when I need it.
- Participate in family engagement events and encourage my family to participate.
- Give the adult who is responsible for my welfare all information I receive from Bear Creek.

# Signature Sheet

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Bear Creek Middle school students participating in the Title I, Part A program, and their families, agree that this plan and compact outlines how the parents, the entire school staff, and the students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement as well as describes how the school and parents will build and develop a partnership that will help children achieve the challenging State academic standards. Please review the attached School Family Engagement Plan and School-Parent Compact.

**I have received, read, and agree to this School Family Engagement Plan and School-Parent Compact.**

Please sign and date below. Once signed, please return this page to your child's teacher (**prior to October 1**) and keep the School Family Engagement Plan and School-Parent Compact as a reminder of your commitment. The School Family Engagement Plan and School-Parent Compact will be discussed with you throughout the year at different school-family events as we work together to help your child succeed in school. We look forward to our school-family partnership!

**Homeroom Teacher:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_



If you prefer, you can use this QR Code to acknowledge that you have received, read and agree to this School Family Engagement Plan and School-Family Compact. Please complete one form per student.