

Parent and Family Engagement Plan
Dardanelle Primary School
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Revision Date: 06/03/19
Shawn Hettinga, District Level Facilitator
District Level Approval Date: 07/01/19

Committee Members:
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2019-2020

The administration and staff at Dardanelle Schools believe that involving families in their child's education is vital for the child to reach his or her potential. Therefore, the school desires to create a partnership with families to improve the social, emotional, and academic growth of students. The family engagement plan will promote the involvement of the school community and provide access to educational resources.

The parent and family engagement plan is in compliance with the legal requirements of Arkansas Act 603 of 2003 (6-15-1602: Parent and Family Engagement Plan) and the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The plan is also included in the Dardanelle Primary School's Arkansas Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (ACSIP) enhancing family involvement. These documents represent joint development with families, students, and school staff.

Program Components:

The following components make up Dardanelle Primary School's Parent and Family Engagement Plan:

The goal of the administration is to involve the parents of the school, the alumni, and community members in Dardanelle Schools

A parent and family engagement organization called WatchDOGS and COOL CATS was organized in the fall of 2005 -2006. WatchDOGS and COOL CATS is the school's family and community organization that helps strengthen our school programs, practices, student learning, and student development. These organizations work every day in school. There are four organizational meetings every year. b. Ice cream socials for families will be in August of each school year. c. Literacy Day will be scheduled for families in December of each school year. d. Pastries for Families will be scheduled in January of each school year.

Parents are welcomed in the school and parental assistance is supported by the following:

- Policies requiring families to pick up his or her child outside the school building each day;

- Policies allowing family visits during school events;
- All teachers send the Arkansas Department of Education's grade list of academic expectation to the families of each student;
- In October, a volunteer survey is sent home with students in their Lizard Log. The survey includes the following:
 - Interests and availability of volunteers for school staff member's use.
 - Information regarding the interests of parents.
 - How frequently a volunteer would like to volunteer. iv. Includes options for those who are available to help at home.
 - The administration will utilize volunteers to address the specific needs of the school.

Planned activities and events:

Dardanelle Primary School involves parents and families throughout the year by hosting the following events:

- Annual report to the public held in August of each school year at the first parent and family engagement/Title I meeting. This meeting informs parents of the requirements of Title I and the school's participation. It also informs parents' of their rights under Title I. Parents are given a brochure to disseminate information.
- A parent and family engagement meeting evening will be scheduled in October of each school year where families are given a report on the state of the school and an overview of the following:
 - What students will learn and an understanding of the iStation K-2 assessment and the ACT Aspire assessment (how students will be assessed).
 - What parents should expect for their child's education.
 - How families can assist and make a difference in education.
 - How families can incorporate developmentally appropriate learning activities into their everyday life demonstrated through role-playing demonstrations by trained volunteers.
 - Assistance with nutritional meal planning.
 - The primary school will host a variety of events at different times to accommodate work schedules.
 - Families will receive a 100 Ways to Help Your Child and School Succeed brochure.
 - Provide materials to promote and support responsible parenting by the following:
 - Purchasing parenting books, magazines, and other informative material regarding responsible parenting through the school library.
 - Advertising current selections of magazines and give parents an opportunity to borrow the material for review.
 - Providing information about current school programs and events.
 - Offer books and videos that parents can use with children at home.
 - Print statements attesting to the school district's commitment to family engagement and distribute the statements to families and students.
 - Recognize that families are a full partner in the decisions that

affect the child.

- The family center is located in the conference room in the
- Primary School and is open from 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. each day as well as parent-teacher conference hours.
- Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled in October 2019 and February 2020 from 3:00 – 8:00 p.m. If parents cannot attend, teachers will schedule meetings before or after school or during the teacher's prep period during the school day.

Parents as Partners:

Dardanelle Primary School encourages parents to participate as full partners in educational decisions by the following:

- Inform parents of the school's process for resolving parental concerns, including how to define the problem, who to approach first, and how to develop solutions. This information is printed in the Dardanelle Primary School's handbook.
- Provide the name of the parent and family engagement coordinator (Stephanie Barker). This person serves as the family facilitator who supervises the school's family center.
- Recognize all family members who attend parent-teacher conferences by submitting an article to the Post-Dispatch thanking all the parents that came to the parent-teacher conferences.
- Involve parents and family members of children receiving services under Title I in the decisions regarding how reserved funds are allotted for parent and family engagement activities.
- Dardanelle Primary School includes family members on advisory committees of the school.
- The committee is involved in the following:
 - Recognizes that communication between home and school is regular, two way, and meaningful.
 - Families communicate weekly or daily through the Lizard Log.
 - The school schedules parent-teacher conferences in October and February.
 - Report cards sent home at the end of each nine-week period.

Professional Development:

The Dardanelle Primary School recognizes that parents play an integral role in assisting student learning. Therefore, the Primary School ensures that the following professional development requirements are met for teachers, administrators, and other educational leaders.

- Two hours of professional development that may be included in the sixty required hours of professional development designed to enhance the understanding of effectual family engagement strategies provided for teachers completed in August.
- Three hours of professional development opportunities provided for administrators in addition to the sixty hours of required professional development taken to enhance the understanding of effective family engagement strategies and the importance of administrative leadership in setting expectations and creating a climate conducive to family participation.
- Professional development will train teachers in understanding the value and utility of contributions of parents; how to reach out to, contribute with, and work with parents as equal partners; and to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties

between home and school while welcoming parents into school in order to seek parental support and assistance.

Additional Activities:

- Monthly newsletter with a calendar included in the back of the school procedures manual.
- Each teacher will participate in classroom DOJO.
- Teachers will report to administration the methods currently used at each grade level to foster communication with parents.
- Teachers will assign interactive homework signed by a family member.
- Family Fitness nights beginning in October.
- Literacy day in December
- Jump Rope for Heart in April
- Field Day in May
- Fishing Derbies in May

CommunityResources:

Dardanelle Primary School recognizes that community resources strengthen school programs, family practices, and student learning by taking advantage of community resources by the following:

- Contacting alumni from the school to create an advisory committee to provide advice and guidance for school improvement.
- Have area counseling agencies on hand at parent-teacher conferences, provide a list of services in the River Valley, and offer family guidance classes.

Evaluation

Dardanelle Primary School will support the developmental, implementation, and regular evaluation of the program to involve parents and families in the decision and practices of the school by the following:

- Principal/parent and family engagement facilitator will provide training for staff and administration in August of every school year.
- A certified educator has been the designation to serve as the parent and family engagement facilitator.
- The facilitator will ensure that family participation is recognized as an asset to Dardanelle Primary School.
- The family and parent engagement committee reviews and updates the plan prior to October 1 of each school year. The school's plan is included in the district's plan filed each year with the Arkansas Department of Education.