

BERRIEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
802 Middle School Circle
Nashville, GA 31639

Tim Hughes
Principal

Shae Shepard
Assistant Principal

BES WEBSITE: <https://bes.berrienschools.org/>

Berrien Elementary School Parent and Family Engagement Plan
2018-2019
Revision Date: 09/10/2018

What is Title I?

Berrien Elementary is identified as a Title I School as part of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). Title I is a federally funded program designed to provide a high quality education that will enable all children to meet the state's student performance standard. The Title I program can provide supplemental instruction in academic areas such as reading, language arts, and math. These programs use effective methods and instructional strategies that are grounded in scientifically based research. Title I funds can also be used to train teachers and paraprofessionals in these researched based strategies.

A school is selected as a Title I school based on the number of students who are eligible for free or reduced priced meals.

Description of School Parent and Family Engagement Plan

In order to achieve its goal of improving student achievement in all academic areas, Berrien Elementary recognizes the vital role of parent involvement. This plan describes the different ways that we will support parent engagement and how parents can help plan and participate in activities and events to promote student learning at school and at home.

We invite all parents annually to participate in the writing, revising, and updating of the parent and family engagement plan. We welcome parent input and comments at any time regarding this plan. All parent feedback will be used to revise the plan for next year. The plan is posted on our website for parents to view and post feedback throughout the year. We also distribute an annual survey online to ask parents for their suggestions on the plan and the use of funds for parent involvement.

This plan will be given to each student to take home in October of each year and parents will receive a sign-off sheet stating they have received a copy of the plan.

Goals

District /State Goals

Berrien Elementary School supports the district mission of “to achieve high levels of learning for all students in a safe and positive environment” and the vision “providing opportunities today for excellence tomorrow”. We also support the Georgia State Department of Education goal to “ensure that all children have an opportunity to obtain a high quality education and to achieve proficiency on high academic standards.” We recognize the important role parents and the local community plays in reaching these educational goals.

BES School Goals

By 2019, BES will strive to increase student growth in all subject areas and will strive to meet or exceed the state’s benchmarks on the EOG state assessments. BES will provide a safe and drug free school, increase communication strategies with all stakeholders and increase student achievement through character recognition, technology, and career clusters.

Parent and Family Engagement Programs and Activities

BES will host the following events to build the capacity for strong parental involvement to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement

- Open House – August 6, 2018
 - Meet your child’s teacher
- PAC Meetings (Quarterly)
 - Addresses Migrant Needs
- Annual Title I Meeting – September 6, 2018
 - Learn about our Title I program
- Parent-Teacher Night – January 2019
 - Learn about your child’s academic expectations and standards
- Curriculum Spotlights per grade
 - Each grade group will invite parents to help or view projects in their classes
- PTO – Various Times of Year
 - School Needs, Fundraisers, Student Achievement
- Parent Involvement Day – November 2018
 - Tour of the School/Parent Concerns
- Class Parties – December and February
- Georgia Milestones Overview– January 2019
 - Assessment Expectations/CCRPI
- Career Day – March 2019
- Parent Appreciation – May 20, 2019
 - Celebrate Parents
- Music Programs-Nov 2018, Dec 2018, May 2019
- Art Gallery- May 2019
- Steam Night Feb 2019

School-Parent Compacts

As part of this plan, BES and our families will develop a school parent-compact, which is an agreement that parents, teachers, and students will develop together that explains how parents 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 parents, students, and teachers during the Title I Parent and Family Engagement Meeting.

Parental Support for Activities/Programs

Berrien Elementary is committed to helping our parents attend the parental activities listed in this plan. Please call us if you need assistance with childcare or transportation in order to participate in our programs/activities. (229-686-2939)

School Measures to Provide Required Assistance

BES will take the following measures to promote and support parents as an important foundation of the school in order to strengthen the school and reach our school goals:

- Ensure that all information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is published in English and Spanish, posted on our website and included in our weekly newsletters
- Share academic standards and assessment results on a regular basis
- Communicate with all families and the community on a regular basis regarding school wide events and activities
- Work with parents to develop relevant trainings and helpful presentations to educate our staff on the importance of parental involvement
- Provide necessary materials for parents at conferences, meetings, and activities to help parents work with their child to improve their child's achievements
- Collaborate with community leaders and business groups to increase participation and awareness of the school parental involvement plan and activities
- Use parent surveys to help to identify needs and interest in learning opportunities

Home School Communication

BES recognizes the importance of developing positive relationships between home and school. One important method we use is through our Monday communication folders and newsletters. Other means of communication include: webpage, email, agenda books, marquee, conferences, parent portal, personal contacts, remind 101, and phone calls.

Student Progress and Communication

Progress report and report cards go home at four and nine week intervals. Reports of the annual state testing are sent to parents informing them of their child's results on the state assessment. We provide a parent portal website as an additional method to review student's progress.

Parental Surveys

Berrien Elementary encourages and values the home, community, and school connection. An effort is made throughout the year to provide opportunities of learning through varied experiences. Parent surveys help to identify needs and interest of learning opportunities, convenient meeting times, and dates throughout the year. Some parent concerns from 2017-2018 surveys that will be addressed in the 2018-2019 school year are math help for parents, bullying, and additional technology needs.

Parent Institute Letters/Student-Parent Handbook

The Home and School Connection parent newsletters from the parent institute is provided monthly in English and Spanish and posted on our website. The Student Parent Handbook addresses issues such as dress code, school policies and procedures, transportation, and school nutrition.

Parent Resource Center

A Parent Information Resource Center is located in the media center. Valuable information on study skills, test-taking tips, tips for busy parents, bullying strategies, reading strategies, math strategies, etc. are available to the parents. Computers are also available for parents to use to check grades, attendance, benchmark sites, etc. Additional topics are added to the center as needed or as mentioned in the spring surveys.

Community Partners

BES partners with Georgia Power for Student Citizenship recognition and we partner with the Foster Grandparent Program. We have two foster grandparents who assist in the reading room and help with reading interventions and progress monitoring data. In addition, we work closely with local doctors through the use of our TeleCare Clinic. Other organizations in the community that we share a partnership with are the local chapter of Veterans of Foreign Wars, Family Connections Community in Schools of Berrien County, local charities, and the Berrien County Recreation Department.

Share Your Thoughts

We want to hear from you. If you have any suggestions, please provide us with your comments below.