

**2023-2024
Veterans Memorial Middle School
School Parent and Family Engagement
Policy**



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(Revised: July 1, 2023)

Title I Information

Veterans Memorial Middle School is recognized as a school-wide 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 in order to reinforce and enhance efforts to improve teaching and learning for students. This policy describes how VMMS will provide parents with opportunities to improve parent involvement to support student learning.

VMMS encourages and values the input and involvement of parents in order to establish a partnership to improve student achievement. VMMS envisions high school ready, college and career focused students who are able to think independently, communicate effectively, and demonstrate their skills to a global audience in order to be successful in the 21st Century.

School Plan for Shared Student Achievement

What it is?

This policy describes how VMMS will provide parents with opportunities to improve parent and family engagement to support student learning. VMMS encourages and values the input and involvement of parents in order to establish a partnership to improve student achievement. This plan describes how VMMS will support parent engagement and how parents can contribute to and participate in activities and meetings to promote student achievement at school and at home.

How is it developed?

Veterans Memorial Middle School encourages continuous parent input regarding the policy. Last spring Veterans Memorial invited all parents to attend our Revision and Development meeting to seek input from parents on this School Parent and Family Engagement Policy, the Title I School-wide Plan, School-Parent Compact, Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP), 1% Budget Allocation of Funds, and District Parent and Family Engagement Policy." The policy and input forms are posted on our school website to view and post feedback. Input forms and copies of the policy will be available in the front office and at all parent meetings. Parent feedback assists in revision of the plan each school year. Each year, Veterans Memorial Middle School hosts several parent family and engagement meetings. These meetings are designed to provide parents with information, support and resources to help their children succeed. Parents can also make suggestions during the parent engagement meetings throughout the year.

Who is it for?

As a School-wide Title I school, all students and their families are encouraged and invited to fully participate in the opportunities described in this policy. VMMS functions as a School-wide Title I school under Title I part A. VMMS will provide full opportunity for the participation of parents with limited English, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children.

Where is it available?

At the beginning of each school year, a Title I packet is sent home with each student in Title I packets distributed early in the school year. In addition, parents may view the policy on the VMMS website. Parents may also get a hard copy of the policy located in the front office, Parent Resource Center or from the Title I school representative. Copies of the policy will be available at all parent meetings throughout the year.

Newton County Schools Goals

The mission of Newton County Schools is to provide educational excellence to all students.

- Goal 1:** Increase the graduation rate
- Goal 2:** Increase opportunities for students to demonstrate success
- Goal 3:** Improve Student mastery of standards

Veterans Memorial Middle School Goals

Students in grades 6-8 will show an overall increase in performance of 3% in Basic Math Fact Fluency as measured by the Fastbridge Assessment by the end of the 2023-2024 school year.

Focus Areas for grades 6-8:

- Basic Operations/ Number Sense
- Mathematical Computation/ Problem Solving

Students in grades 6-8 will show an overall increase in performance of 3% in Reading Comprehension and Written Expression as measured by the Fastbridge assessment by the end of the 2023-2024 school year

Focus Areas for grades 6-8:

- Reading Comprehension
- Written Expression— writing with a focus

School-Parent Compacts

VMMS responsibilities: As a school, VMMS will:

Conduct a series of joint trainings for students and parents to practice using strategies to develop better readers, strengthen written expression and implement strategies to enhance number fact fluency and increase mathematical computation.

Hold parent-teacher conferences that will serve as an opportunity for parents to receive personalized strategies to support reading and math focus areas and VMMS will provide “Teachers Involve Parents in Schoolwork” (TIPS) handout activities to foster the learning environment at home and monitor student progress.

Post to our website access to available programs and other links for learning to provide parents and students with ongoing support to increase achievement in the areas of: number fact fluency and mathematical computation, reading comprehension, and written expression.

Parent Engagement Program and Activities

Veterans Memorial Middle School will host the following events to build capacity for strong parental involvement to support a partnership among the school, parents, and community for improved student academic achievement. Information will be posted throughout the school year regarding dates, times, and topics on the VMMS website, the school marquee, through School Messenger invitations, and with informational flyers. VMMS is committed to helping our parents attend the parental activities listed in this policy. Please call us if you need assistance in order to attend a meeting.

Parent and Families responsibilities are to attend content specific curriculum nights/joint trainings and encourage your student to use strategies to build reading comprehension skills and written expression and strategies to build number fact fluency and increase mathematical computation when working at home. Attend parent-teacher conferences to assist with progress monitoring and to receive personalized strategies specific for my student to support his/her reading and mathematical skills. Encourage my student to use USA Test Prep and other links for learning to provide ongoing support to increase achievement in the areas of: number fact fluency, mathematical computation, reading comprehension, and written expression. Lastly, parents are encouraged to use “Teachers Involve Parents in Schoolwork” (TIPS) handout activities to foster the learning environment at home.

- **Annual Title I Parent Orientation Meeting—AUGUST 23, 2023**—VMMS invites all parents, families to learn about our Title I program including our parental involvement policy, the school-wide plan, the school-parent compact, and parent requirements.
- **Curriculum Night—AUGUST 23, 2023**—Teachers will provide a review of the curriculum along with grade level content-specific strategies for academic success.
- **Parent-Teacher Conferences—SEPTEMBER 15, 2023**—Families and teachers will have the opportunity to discuss students’ progress as well as address the School-Parent Compact and Parent Policy.
- **Parent-Teacher Conferences—FEBRUARY 2, 2024**—Families and teachers will have the opportunity to discuss students’ progress as well as address the School-Parent Compact and Parent Policy
- **Parents on Patrol—MARCH 21, 2024** —A variety of workshops will be available for parents to choose from. Examples of topics are study strategies, Social Emotional Learning and understanding how your child learns.
- **Annual Title I Stakeholder Input Meeting—APRIL 15, 2024**—Stakeholders will convene to review, discuss, and revise the School-Parent Compact, the District and School Parent Involvement Policies, Title I School-wide Plan, Parent Involvement budget, Building Staff Capacity, CLIP, and future topics for parent and family engagement meetings.



Parent Engagement Funds

• Did you know that each LEA that receives more than \$500,000 in Title I, Part A funds, shall reserve at least one percent of its allocation to assist schools to carry out the parental engagement activities? Attend our Annual Title I Stakeholder's Input Meeting to give your input on how we can use our funds to provide you with the tools, resources and strategies to help your child reach academic success.

APRIL 15, 2024—Annual Title I Stakeholder Input Meeting

Parent and Family Engagement

Veterans Memorial Middle School believes that parent and family engagement means the participation of parents in regular two-way, meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities to ensure that the school and families are connected.

VMMS envisions high school ready, college and career focused students who are able to think independently, communicate effectively, and demonstrate their skills to a global audience in order to be successful in the 21st Century.

VMMS is Destined for Greatness

Veterans Memorial Middle School believes that parent involvement means the participation of parents in regular two-way, meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities ensuring that:

VMMS will ensure that communications are sent home in English and Spanish that shares how parents can understand the school's academic standards, local and state assessments, and how parents can monitor their child's progress and work with educators. Parents will have the opportunity to attend parent conferences and content focused curriculum nights for all academic subjects, receive progress reports and access to Infinite Campus to monitoring their child's progress.

VMMS will provide material and training to assist parents (including the harms of copyright piracy) by hosting a series of events to build the capacity for strong parent and family engagement to support the partnership among the school, parents and the community for improved student learning. Parents will have the opportunity to attend content focused curriculum nights in all academic subjects.

VMMS will provide "Teachers Involve Parents in Schoolwork" (TIPS) handout activities to foster the learning environment at home. Parents will also have access to updated communication and information via teacher Canvas pages and school website.

VMMS will bridge the gap between learning and the school, by providing professional learning to educators, via workshops and via emails, to actively engage parents during scheduled parent and family engagement workshops and discuss strategies to improve communication with parents.

VMMS will coordinate with Federal, state and local programs that supports parents including offering 5th grade transition day during the spring to provide parents an overview of course offerings and extracurricular activities at the school. Additionally, during the summer incoming 6th grade students can participate in the Day Camp to become more acclimated with middle school.

VMMS will ensure that all communication related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities are posted on the school website, the school marquee, and communication is sent home via flyers, and the School Messenger system.

VMMS will partner with community stakeholders to share information that will help prepare students for their future.

Parent Resource Room

Parents can discover what is available for checkout and learn how to use the hands-on materials. Computers are available for parents to explore the Parent Portal as well as other online educational resources.

The Parent Resource Center will be located in Room E-3. Additional resource books, study materials, and activities will be available for check out to use at home with your student. The Parent Resource Center will be open during the school day from 9:00-3:30 pm.

Continuous Communication

All informed, engaged, and supportive family plays an instrumental role in a student's academic success. The Newton County School System supports families in partnerships with schools, district, and the community in the quest of achieving academic success for all students. Here are some ways that we provide continuous communication with our parents to ensure that learning is continued beyond the school day.

- *Parent Connect Canvas Page*
- *Teachers' Canvas Pages*
- *Twitter*
- *School's Website*
- *The General Newsletter*

Please contact Dr. Takila Curry for more information at curry.takila@newton.k12.ga.us

Measures of Effectiveness

- **Parent Meeting Evaluation**—to gather feedback from the parents to evaluate the effectiveness of the meeting and to gain insight on parent academic support for future meetings.
- **Parent Survey Data**—to gain insight on VMMS effectiveness in meeting the needs of parents in various areas such as technology, parent workshop topics, and school climate so that we can create an environment that meets the needs of all parents and families.
- **Revision and Development Stakeholders Meeting:** to give all stakeholders the opportunity to give input to build the effectiveness on the:
 - Parent and Family Engagement Policy-School and District
 - School-Parent Compact
 - Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP)
 - Title I School-wide Plan
 - Building Staff Capacity
 - Parent Involvement 1% Funding
- **Student Outcomes:** to access if strategies and activities, as outlined on the school parent compacts, are effectively impacting student achievement.
- **Multiple Opportunities for Input:** Veterans Memorial Middle School will provide several opportunities for parents and families to give input on the effectiveness of the Title I Program. Parents can access our Title School-wide Plan, The Parent and Family Engagement Policy, and the School-Parent Compact on our school's website. These documents are also located in our parent resource room located in room #E-3.



We love Parent Volunteers

Parent and Family involvement at VMMS is highly encouraged. Volunteering helps your own children as well as children of other parents too. Every parent is able to help in some way during the school year. We have multiple opportunities for parents to support the school in the following areas:

- School sponsored dances
- Sporting events
- Fundraising
- Career Day
- Awards Ceremonies
- Chaperoning fieldtrips
- Assist teachers with preparing materials for future lessons, prepare classrooms, and/or inventory supplies.



Parent Comments and Suggestions

Parent comments and feedback are a vital component of our Parent and Family Engagement Policy. Veterans Memorial Middle School continuously seeks suggestions and feedback to improve our parent involvement meetings. In addition to participation in our annual Title I Revision Meeting in the Spring, we welcome all comments and suggestions throughout the school year. All feedback, comments and suggestions are considered during the annual review process.

We want to hear from you! If you have any suggestions or if there is any part of the school-wide program plan that you feel needs to be adjusted, please provide us with your comments in the space provided and leave this form in the office. You may also email feedback to Veterans Memorial Middle School Title I Contact: Aryn Abernathy at Abernathy.aryn@newton.k12.ga.us or (770) 385-6893

Name: (optional) _____

Telephone Number (optional) _____
