

New Market Elementary School

2008-2009 Parent Involvement Plan

The Jefferson County Schools Family and Community Engagement Plan is based on the concept that families have a major influence on their children's achievement in school and through life. As a result of this influence, positive results with student achievement occur when schools, families, and community groups work together to support learning. The New Market Elementary School Family and Community Engagement Plan supports these beliefs.

New Market Elementary School faculty and staff expect that families and community members are an integral part of our school. Parents, family members and community members are welcome in our school and are encouraged to volunteer in school activities and participate in the education of our students. An Open House/Parent Involvement Meeting is held in the fall to introduce new parents to the school and to invite them and the returning parents to meet with faculty members and to visit each classroom. Students are given a student handbook at the beginning of each year, or when a student enrolls at the school. They are asked to read the handbook with the parent, then the parent signs a page in the book, tears it out and returns it to the school stating that they have read the book together and understand its contents.

Parents are informed of student progress with mid-term reports, report cards and progress reports throughout the school year. They are also given opportunities to meet with teachers at Parent-Teacher Conferences twice per year. Also, through the student handbook and teacher notes to parents, they are encouraged to contact teachers before or after school or during a teacher's planning period if they wish. Parents are invited to join and attend PTO meetings throughout the year and are encouraged to ask questions and present ideas or suggestions at these meetings. The PTO asks parents to volunteer for at least one "Power Hour" per school year, or more if they can spare the time. There are many opportunities throughout the school year for parents to participate in school and PTO sponsored activities. Annual activities include school and PTO fundraisers, Christmas in Jefferson County, collections of Box Tops for Education, Campbell's Soup Labels, Food City Receipts; Nestle Water Labels, Ink jet cartridges and cell phones for recycling, class field trips and parties as well as many other activities.

Parents will be kept informed of school activities through school wide newsletters, PTO newsletters, teacher newsletters, the school district's web site, the school's web site and through a large outdoor sign at the school. A meeting will be held each year to explain the curriculum and assessments used in our school as well as to explain the school improvement plan, its process, findings, and action steps to achieve the goals set forth therein. The state report card will be published in the local newspaper. Parents will be informed that a copy of the Blueprint for Learning objectives are available for view on-line as well as in the school office and library at any time. Think-Link, and assessment tool will be used throughout the school with results sent home to parents.

Parents of pre-kindergarten students are offered Parenting Education Classes through the Family Resource Center. These classes have a development education focus and give parents suggestions for activities that can be done at home. In addition, parents who have their child screened at the Family Resource Center prior to entering

kindergarten will receive quarterly newsletters with helpful parenting tips. The New Market Elementary pre-kindergarten teachers and assistants make a home visit to each of their students. They also provide training to parents during regularly scheduled parent meetings.

Parents who want may sign up for the Second Harvest Food for Kids Program. Students are given enough food from the five basic food groups to take home on Fridays to insure they have something to eat over the week-end. The school has a team in the Jefferson County Relay for Life event that raises money for the American Cancer Society. Parents, students, faculty and staff are included on the team. The PTO sells t-shirts that are color-coordinated with students' grade level. Parents and community members may also purchase the shirts which sport the school logo and motto: "Caring, sharing and learning for life". These shirts can be seen worn throughout the community.

Parents are asked to serve on the School Improvement Plan committees, the School Health Index committee and to serve on the PTO Executive Board. Parents are invited to attend various music programs throughout the school year and the Pre-kindergarten and fifth grade graduations as well as Honors Day each spring. Parents are asked to participate in the school's Book Character Day on Halloween to read to classes; on Veterans' Day to honor those who serve or who have served; and on Career Day to teach students about various vocations. Parents are encouraged to attend special events each year such as field day, fun day, county-wide elementary field day, the school and the county-wide spelling bees and scholars' bowl tournaments.

Parents are given many opportunities to participate in the decision making process of New Market Elementary School. Parents are given the opportunity to make a choice of teacher for their child each spring so their input is gleaned as well as that of the child's current teacher, the school counselor, literacy coach and the principal. They can choose to join the PTO to support on-going programs of the school; to serve on various committees such as updating the Parent-School Compact, the School Improvement Plan committee and the School Health Index committee. Parents will also be invited to serve on a school wide committee that will be asked to examine the allocation of select school resources.

Parents are asked to participate, communicate and work closely with their child each day to boost their learning and be involved in their education. The principal sends a letter to students and parents through the handbook that stresses the importance of communication—through notes, email, phone calls and meetings between parents, teachers and students. The principal is readily accessible to parents, also, as the entire faculty and staff truly care about each student and their achievement.