

# **Gentry Middle School**

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***Mr. Larry Cozens, Principal***

## **Parental Involvement Plan**

Gentry Middle School believes that parent involvement makes a tremendous impact on students' attitude, academic achievement, and attendance. Therefore, GMS strives to involve parents in effective and meaningful parent-school partnerships. This policy is intended to encourage parent involvement and to support parent-school partnerships.

The Gentry Middle School Parent Advisory Committee which also serves as our Academic Booster Committee, consists of our Teacher Parental Involvement Coordinator, our principal, parents, grandparents, and community members. The following is a list of services and activities

To promote parental involvement and provide additional support for student learning.

1. School staff will use a variety of communication strategies to provide additional information to parents and to increase parental involvement in supporting classroom instruction.
  - Gentry Middle School employees Highly Qualified Teachers who continue to engage in a minimum of 60 hours of Professional Development training and workshops including at least two hours of Parent Involvement Strategies each year.
  - Parents have the right to know the professional qualifications of their child's teacher.
  - GMS will notify parents by mail if any teacher has not met state licensing requirements for the grade level and subjects in which the teacher is providing instruction.
  - The school will distribute a monthly newsletter to parents that is developed with participation of the Parent Teacher Organization, principal, staff and parent volunteers. It includes school news, a calendar of school activities, and parenting tips relating to school achievement such as homework tips, organizational skills, and study skills.
  - The Gentry School District Website: [gentrypioneers.com](http://gentrypioneers.com) houses the Gentry Middle School Website. Also parents can access their child's Accelerated Reader (AR) tests from home using a user name and password provided to them by our Media Specialist. Parents may use e-mail to communicate with members of the school staff.

## **Gentry Middle School Parental Involvement Plan (Continued)**

- Students are required to have agendas. Teachers and parents can communicate about the students work and behavior each week. Parents may be asked to sign the agenda on a weekly basis.
  - GMS will provide to parents midterm progress reports as well as quarterly report cards with information regarding their child's academic progress.
  - GMS will offer parents the opportunity to serve on the Parent Advisory Committee which meets at the same time as the Academic Boosters.
  - GMS will send fliers home with students, post notices in school facilities and public buildings, and provide information for local newspapers about parent workshops and meetings.
2. Gentry Middle School (GMS) will hold parent meetings, conferences, and activities regularly throughout the year to increase parental involvement and build staff capacity to engage in these types of efforts.
- These meetings will include parent-training sessions to help parents understand how to enhance their child's education.
  - The meetings will be held at various times during the day or evening to better accommodate parents.
  - Outside speakers will provide parents with more information concerning ways to make their child's behavioral and academic life more successful.
  - GMS will hold an Open House for students and parents before the first day of school. Parents and students will have the opportunity to meet the teachers and become familiar with GMS facilities, activities, and campus expectations.
  - Teachers will hold conferences individually with parents of children in their classrooms. Parents will be given a summary of the student's test scores and an explanation of the interventions teachers are using to assist the child in reaching achievement goals. Parents will be asked to engage in discussion of how they can support these efforts. Parents will also be given suggestions for coordinating school-parent efforts and explanations of homework and grading procedures. GMS will offer parents a special workshop each year to provide an explanation of the statewide assessment systems, standards, and other accountability measures.

**Gentry Middle School  
Parental Involvement Plan  
(Continued)**

- GMS will engage parents in the following types of roles and activities to increase their involvement and support for student learning:

Book Fair Helpers	Open House
GMS Academic Boosters	Volunteers
Award's Assemblies	Field Trip Chaperones
Technology Training	Athletic Boosters
Parent Education Workshops	Band and Choir Concerts
Red Ribbon Week	Career Speakers
GMS Talent Show	
  
- 3. GMS will provide information to parents about volunteer opportunities.
- Gentry Middle School will work with Gentry Intermediate School and Gentry High School to help provide a smooth transition from one school to the next by raising parent awareness of procedures and related activities. The school will host special orientation programs for students to help with the transition. Parents will have the opportunity to meet the new teachers at the Open House before school starts.
- The school will involve parents on school improvement planning committees. The school will provide a parent resource center for parents.
- Parents may check out materials, use the computer in the Media Center to access AR, and visit educational Web sites. Parents will be encouraged to view the Title I Plan located in the parent resource center. A suggestion sheet will also be available for parental input. The school will open the resource center during school office hours, parent nights, P/T conferences or as arranged.
  
- 4. The school will engage parents in an evaluation of parental involvement efforts.
- The Parent Advisory Committee, made up of Parent Involvement Coordinator, a teacher, parents, grandparents, community members, and administrator, will determine the effectiveness of the parental involvement plan and make changes if warranted. While collecting evidence about satisfaction with the program and the school's efforts to increase parental involvement will be a part of the evaluation, the survey will also collect specific information on the (1) growth in numbers of parents participating in workshops and meetings; (2) specific needs of parents; (3) effectiveness of specific strategies; and (4) engagement of parents in activities to support student academic growth.