

Little Rock School District Booker Arts Magnet School Parent and Family Engagement Information Packet 2018-2019

Introduction

Booker Arts Magnet School is dedicated to the education of our students. We believe that our success is contributed to the partnership we have with our parents and families. We will continue to work closely with our parents and families to provide our students with the best educational experience possible.

Parent and Family Engagement Committee Members

Dr. Cheryl Carson – Principal
Emily Hester – Parent Facilitator
Alma Mireles – Teacher
Ellen Hoppe Miller – Parent/PTA President
Suzanne Carter – Parent
Amy Hallum – Teacher
Kassandra Hasley – Parent/Teacher
Mariah Reescano – Parent/Teacher
Nikita Milton – Parent
Tywana Lambert – Parent

Booker Arts Magnet School Information

Booker Arts Magnet School is an arts magnet focusing on art infusion into education. Booker serves 429 students in grades Pre-Kindergarten through Fifth Grade. 100% of our students are on free and reduced lunch. Booker Arts Magnet is a Title I school. Booker's AMO for 2018-2019 school year is "needs improvement".

Communication Strategies

Booker Arts Magnet will communicate with parents in the following ways to increase parent and family engagement and to support classroom instruction:

- The school will distribute a monthly newsletter to parents which will include school news, a calendar of school activities, and parenting tips related to school achievement such as homework tips, organizational skills, and study skills. Contact: **Judy Murray, secretary #447-3803**
- Agenda books will be assigned to every student for daily contact with parents. Contact: **Judy Murray, secretary #447-3803**
- Communicate on a consistent basis with parents through the use of Blackboard. Contact: **Judy Murray, secretary #447-3803** or [Little Rock School District website](#), click on Parents.
- Student/Parent handbooks will be available online to all families to reference school numbers, activities, rules, and community partnerships. Contact: **Hazel Harris, #447-3871**
- Booker Arts Magnet Website/District Website – go to [Little Rock School District website](#), click on schools, click on Booker

- Report Cards are available online at the end of each nine weeks. Parents may request a paper report card. Contact: **Dr. Cheryl Carson #447-3802**
- Teachers will routinely contact parents on an individual basis to communicate about their child's progress.
- The school will provide to parents reports/report cards every four weeks with information regarding their child's academic progress and upcoming classroom and school events. Contact: **your child's classroom teacher #447-3800**
- Booker Arts Magnet staff is available and ready to assist parents and students! All needs should be directed to the student's classroom teacher through student agenda books, emails, and phone calls. (See the Booker Arts Magnet Handbook for names and phone numbers.) The classroom teacher will contact the appropriate staff member such as the school counselor, nurse, and/or principal that can best meet the specific need. The principal, Dr. Cheryl Carson, will address needs if necessary upon the notification of the classroom teacher and/or other staff members involved. Booker has an open door policy, however, appointments are appreciated. Please contact Mrs. Judy Murray at 447-3803 for appointments.

Activities for Parents and Staff

Booker Arts Magnet will plan and implement the following meetings to increase parent and family engagement and build staff and parent capacity at Booker Arts Magnet:

- 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. Dates for 2018-2019 Parent/Teacher Conferences: 10/11/2018 from 2:25pm-5:25pm, 10/12/2018 from 8:00am-12:00pm, 2/14/2019 from 2:25pm-5:25pm, and 2/15/2019 from 8:00am-12:00pm
- Host a Family Math and Literacy Night.
- The school will encourage parents in the following types of roles and activities to increase their engagement and support for student learning:
 - ✓ **Open House** – September 6, 2018 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. Contact: **Emily Hester #447-3806**
 - ✓ **Title I Meeting** – September 6, 2018 from 5:30-6:00 p.m. Contact: **Dr. Cheryl Carson #447-3802**
 - ✓ **Grandparent's Day** – September 6, 2018 from 10:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Contact: **Ellen Miller #612-3064**
 - ✓ **Family Game Night** – TBA from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Contact: **Emily Hester #447-3806**
 - ✓ **Flu Clinic & Health Fair** – October 1, 2018 from 9:00-11:30 a.m. Contact: **Nurse Scott #447-3805**
 - ✓ **Red Ribbon Week** – October 23-31, 2018 Contact: **Tammy Ringler, counselor #447-3833**
 - ✓ **Family Science Fair Night** – TBA 5:30 pm. appropriate instruction on Science Fair procedures. Contact: **Kristy Mosby #447-3814**
 - ✓ **VIPS Reading Day** – November 13, 2018 from 8:00-1:30 p.m. Contact: **Emily Hester #447-3806**
(Training of the VIPS Volunteers Contact: Debbie Milam, Director #447-4452 / Tammy Blaylock, Volunteer Coordinator #447-4455)
 - ✓ **Fall Scholastic Book Fair** – November 9-16, 2018 Contact: **Emily Hester #447-3806**
 - ✓ **PTA Fall Festival** – October 26, 2018 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Contact: **Hazel Harris #447-3871**
 - ✓ **Donuts for Dads** – November 9, 2018 from 7:10 a.m. – 7:50 a.m. Contact: **Emily Hester #447-3806**
 - ✓ **Thanksgiving at Booker** – November 8, 2018 from 10:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Contact: **Ellen Miller #612-3064**
 - ✓ **BAM FAN** – November 15, 2018 from 5:30-7:00 p.m. Contact: **Deborah Ramsey #447-3860**
 - ✓ **Winterfest**– December 13, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. Contact: **DJ Ramsey/Mariah Reescano #447-3860**
 - ✓ **Kindergarten Polar Express Event** – December TBA Contact: **Emily Hester #447-3806**
 - ✓ **Super Bowl with Dads** – January 31, 2019 Contact: **Ellen Miller #612-3064**
 - ✓ **Career Day** – February TBA Contact: **Tammy Ringler #447-3833**
 - ✓ **Magical Moments with Moms** – February 7, 2019 from 10:45 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Contact: **Ellen Hoppe Miller #612-3064**
 - ✓ **Awards Assemblies** – TBA Contact: **Tammy Ringler #447-3833**
 - ✓ **5th Grade Recognition Ceremony** – May 16, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. Contact: **Debbie Hipps #447-3839**
 - ✓ **District-Wide Parent Education Workshops** – TBA Contact: **District Specialist #447-3357**

- ✓ **PTA Meetings** – Monthly from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Contact: **Ellen Miller #612-3064**
- ✓ **Spring Book Fair**–TBA Contact: **Emily Hester #447-3806**
- ✓ **Arts Fest Day** – May 17, 2019 Contact: **Chris Henry #447-3815**

- Teachers will schedule a minimum of two (2) parent/teacher conferences on the above mentioned dates during the school year to discuss academic achievement and discuss and have all parties sign (teacher, parent, student, principal) home-school compact.
- Designated Parent and Family Engagement Facilitator will provide no fewer than two (2) hours of Parent Involvement Professional Development to all certified staff to enhance the understanding of effective parental engagement strategies.

Volunteer Opportunities

Booker Arts Magnet will provide information to parents about volunteer opportunities in the following ways:

- Contact individual teachers (see the Booker Arts Magnet Handbook for names and phone numbers) and/or the school secretary, Ms. Judy Murray at 447-3803. Training will be provided by the person in charge of the area in which a volunteer is needed. Volunteer opportunities include but not limited to VIPS Reading Day, classroom/teacher help, school parties, library aide, and Scholastic Book Fair.
- Booker Arts Magnet PTA includes parents, extended family, teachers and staff. Please contact the Booker PTA President, Ellen Hoppe Miller at 612-3064 for information concerning Booker Arts Magnet PTA.
- For information about volunteer training or to sign up for volunteer orientation, contact Tammy Blaylock at tamara.blaylock@lrzd.org or call the ViPS Office at 447-4450.

School-Parent Compact

Staff, parents, and students have signed a School-Parent Compact. This compact outlines the responsibilities of all stakeholders involved in the academic achievement of the students. These compacts will be on file in the classroom for further reference throughout the school year. The compact is given out in the Student Handbook at the beginning of the year. Dr. Cheryl Carson #447-3802

Implementation and Evaluation of School-wide Improvement Plan

Booker Arts Magnet will provide opportunities for parents to be involved in the implementation and evaluation of the school-wide school improvement plan. According to the 2018-2019 School Improvement Plan, Booker will inform parents of attendance requirements as listed in the Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook and Booker Arts Magnet School's Student Handbook and monitor student absences and contact parents by phone and/or letter when student's absences warrant. The parent facilitator will also provide parents with information to support their child's skill acquisition such as Informational Packets, Booker Arts Magnet Student Handbook, Volunteer Resource Book, and memos.

Resources for Parents and Families

Booker Arts Magnet will provide resources for parents:

- Distribute Parent and Family Information Packets each year that includes a copy of the school's Parent and Family Engagement Plan, survey for volunteer interests, recommended roles for parents/ teachers/students and school through the compact, suggestions of ways parents can become involved in their child's education, parent and family engagement activities planned for the current school year, information about the system that will be used to allow parents and teachers to communicate (notes, phone calls, e-mail, etc.), and school's policy handbook. Contact: Judy Murray Secretary #447-3803
- The Parent Center is located in the Literacy Lounge adjacent to the Media Center. It includes updated materials using Parent and Family Engagement funds such as computer with printer, parenting books, magazines, DVDs,

pamphlets, and other educational resources. The Parent Center will be open from 7:40-3:00 Monday – Friday. Contact Emily Hester, Parent and Family Engagement Facilitator #447-3806 for extended hours and/or request for materials to be purchased.

- The principal of each school in a school district shall designate (1) certified staff member who is willing to serve as a parent and family engagement facilitator – Emily Hester, Media Center, #447-3806. The parent facilitator will integrate and coordinate parent and family engagement strategies with those of other programs.
- Utilize the services of the Little Rock School District’s Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator – Kaye Rainey #447-3357.

Evaluation of Parent and Family Engagement Efforts

Booker Arts Magnet will engage parents in the evaluation of the parent and family engagement efforts:

- An annual evaluation using comprehensive needs assessment will be filled out by teachers, parents and school staff. Information gained from the evaluation will be used to increase parent and family engagement; the survey will also collect specific information on the (1) growth in number of parents participating in workshops and meetings; (2) specific needs of parents; (3) engagement of parents in activities to support student academic growth. Contact: Emily Hester Parent and Family Engagement Facilitator #447-3806

Parent and Family Interest Surveys

Booker Arts Magnet will use the parent interest surveys to select, plan, and implement parental engagement activities that will be offered throughout the year in the following ways:

- Results will be used in October 2018 to plan the content and time of parental engagement activities throughout the year by Emily Hester and the Parent and Family Engagement Committee
- Booker Arts Magnet will evaluate the activities that were held in conjunction with Parent and Family Engagement at the end of the school year to determine their effectiveness and participation.

Annual Title I Meeting

Booker’s Annual Title I Meeting was held September 6, 2018. Items discussed included:

- Access to Arkansas’ Accountability Plan (ESSA)
- Description of school-wide Title I Program
- Title I budget allocation
- Utilization of the Title I budget
- Overview of the Core Curriculum
- Parent involvement opportunities (Parent Teacher Conferences, PTA membership)
- Community partnerships (Arkansas Arts Center, Arkansas Regional Innovation Hub, and First United Methodist Church)

National Network of Partnership Schools

Booker Arts Magnet School is a member of John Hopkins University of National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS). The NNPS School, Family, and Community Partnership family model is designed to enhance parent participation and engagement in the school and community. The family model is research based and references engagement, activities, and resources for the six types of involvement: Parenting, Communicating, Volunteering, Student Learning, Decision-Making, and Collaborating with the Community. To support the six types of involvement, Booker Arts Magnet participates on the LRSD NNPS Central-East School Cluster Team. Contact Person: Emily Hester #447-3806

Booker Arts Magnet

Home/School Learning Compact 2018-2019

Student Name: _____ **Grade:** _____

School Mission: *The staff at Booker Arts Magnet believes and expects that every individual can and will learn. Our mission is to educate all students to higher levels of academic performance, while developing divergent thinking and creativity, promoting physical and emotional well-being, and fostering positive growth in social behavior through integration of the curriculum and the fine and performing arts. In partnership with parents and the community, we accept the responsibility to teach all students with the goal of enabling them to achieve their ultimate educational potential and to equip them to meet the challenges of the Twenty-first century.*

Parent/Student/Teacher/Principal Compact

Parent/Guardian Agreement

(Any person who is interested in helping this student may sign in lieu of the parent.) I want my child to succeed. Therefore, I will encourage him/her by doing the following:

- ___ See that my child is punctual and attends school regularly.
- ___ Support the school discipline policy.
- ___ Establish a time for homework and review homework regularly.
- ___ Provide a quiet, well lighted place for study.
- ___ Encourage my child's efforts and be available for questions.
- ___ Stay aware of what my child is learning.
- ___ Provide a library card for my child.
- ___ Read with my child and let my child see me read.

It is important that I work to the best of my ability. Therefore, I shall strive to do the following:

- ❖ Attend school regularly.
- ❖ Come to school each day with pens, pencils, paper and other necessary tools for learning.
- ❖ Complete and return homework assignments.
- ❖ Observe regular study hours.
- ❖ Conform to rules of student conduct.

Teacher Agreement

It is important that students achieve. Therefore, I shall strive to do the following:

- ❖ Provide appropriate and meaningful homework assignments for students.
- ❖ Provide necessary assistance to parents so that they can help with the assignments.
- ❖ Encourage students and parents by providing information about student progress.
- ❖ Use special activities in the classroom to make learning enjoyable.

Principal/School Agreement

I support this form of parent involvement. Therefore, I shall strive to do the following:

- ❖ Provide an environment that allows for positive communication between the teachers, parents and students.
- ❖ Ensure teachers homework assignments that will reinforce classroom instruction regularly.
- ❖ Ensure high-quality curriculum and instruction that meets the State's student academic achievement standards
- ❖ Engage parents in parent-teacher conferences in which this compact will be discussed.
- ❖ Ensure that parents receive frequent reports on their child's progress.
- ❖ Ensure parental access to staff to support partnerships.
- ❖ Provide parents opportunities to volunteer and observe classroom activities.

Parent Volunteer Survey

Booker Arts Magnet 2018-2019

Parent's Name _____ Phone # _____

Address _____ Email _____

Student's Name _____ Teacher _____

1. What are the best times for you to come to school?
 - a. Morning
 - b. Afternoon
 - c. Evening
2. Our school encourages parent involvement. Would you like to be involved with the school?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

If you answered no please tell us why: _____

If you answered yes, please tell us what you would feel comfortable doing:

_____ Help in the office or library

_____ Attending field trips

_____ Special Event Volunteer

_____ Other _____

3. Is there anything that prevents you from becoming involved that we could help you with?
 - a. Child Care
 - b. Transportation issues
 - c. Interpretation needed
 - d. Other _____
4. How would you like to be notified of meetings and events?
 - a. Phone call
 - b. Flyers
 - c. Email
 - d. Other _____
5. If the school offered classes what would you be interested in?
 - a. Computers
 - b. English as a Second Language (ESL)
 - c. Spanish Classes for Parents
 - d. How to help students succeed
 - e. Help with understanding homework
 - f. Parent Training (such as Leadership, Advocacy, Education, etc)
 - g. Other _____
6. Is there anything else you would like to tell us? _____

Thank you for your time to complete this survey. Please return it to the school as soon as you can.

Mrs. Emily Hester
Parent and Family Engagement Facilitator
447-3806

Encuesta de Padres Voluntarios

Booker Arts Magnet 2018-2019

Nombre del Padre/Madre _____ Numero de Telefono # _____
Direccion _____ Correo Electronico _____
Nombre del Estudiante _____ Maestro/a _____

1. Cual es el mejor momento del dia para que usted pueda venir a la escuela?
 - a. En la manana
 - b. En la tarde
 - c. En la Noche
2. Nuestra escuela alienta la participacion e involucramiento de padres. Le gustaria participar e involucrarse con la escuela?
 - a. Si
 - c. No

Si su respuesta ha sido No, por favor diganos por que : _____

Si ha respondido Si, por favor diganos que le gustaria hacer sintiendose comodo o comoda:

- _____ Ayudar en la oficina
- _____ Ir a los viajes campestres o field trips
- _____ Ayudar con eventos especiales
- _____ Otros _____

3. Hay algo en que le podemos ayudar que prevenga su participacion y que se involucre?
 - a. Cuidado de ninos
 - b. Asuntos relacionados con el transporte
 - c. Ayuda a que alguien traduzca informacion
 - d. Otros: _____
4. Como le gustaria que se le notifique cuando hay juntas/ reuniones y eventos?
 - a. Por telefono
 - b. Volantes/ Folletos
 - c. Correo Electronico
 - d. Otros: _____
5. Si la escuela ofrece clases, que le interesaria que ofrezca?
 - a. Computadoras
 - b. Ingles como Segundo Idioma (ESL)
 - c. Clases de Espanol para Padres
 - d. Como ayudar a que los estudiantes triunfen
 - e. Ayudar a que entiendan las tareas escolares
 - f. Entrenamiento de Padres (como por ejemplo liderazgo, actividades de apoyo, educacion, ect.)
 - g. Other _____
6. Hay otra cosa que usted quiere compartir con nosotros? _____

Gracias por el tiempo que ha dedicado para completar la encuesta. Por favor envie de regreso la encuesta a la escuela lo antes que pueda.

Mrs. Emily Hester
Parent and Family Engagement Facilitator
447-3806

JOSEPH R. BOOKER ARTS MAGNET SCHOOL

2018-2019 STAFF DIRECTORY

PRINCIPAL

Dr. Cheryl Carson – Office #447-3802

PRINCIPAL'S SECRETARY

Judy Wilson-Murray – Office #447-3803

PRE-K

Kevianna Beasley – 205 #447-3874

Martha Saraheen – 205 #447-3881 (VM)

Amanda Green – 206 #447-3809

Lisa Parker – 206 #447-3810 (VM)

Joni Thomas – 203 #447-3867

Latonia Marion – 203 #447-3824 (VM)

Victor Martinez – 204 #447-3876

KINDERGARTEN

Elizabeth Hammons – 103 #447-3822

Kimberly Lang – 102 #447-3846

Julie Post – 101 #447-3859

FIRST GRADE

Sherry Durham – 107 #447-3870

Dixie Fair – 108 #447-3832

Alicia Jones – 106 #447-3845

SECOND GRADE

Loretta Ellington – 109 #447-3831

Kimberly Goldsberry – 112 #447-3817

Darrell Hayden – 111 #447-3836

Lisa Powell – 112 #447-3883 (VM)

THIRD GRADE

Fattama Alkaysi – 310 #447-3811

Gail Hollamon – 309 #447-3829

Theresa Ibekwe – 312 #447-3863

FOURTH GRADE

Kassandra Hasley – 308 #447-3838

Elizabeth McAdams – 306 #447-3842

Alma Mireles – 305 #447-3861

FIFTH GRADE

Tyeisha Dupree – 304 #447-3844

Kristy Mosby – 303 #447-3814

Leslie Brown – 301 #447-3823

RESOURCE

Loretta Davis – 307 #447-3886

SELF CONTAINED RESOURCE

Emily Hanson – 202 #447-3853

Debra Davis – 202 #447-3818 (VM)

Terrell Hammond – 202 #447-3813 (VM)

Leonard Leach – 201 #447-3812

Joann Dobbins – 201 #447-3818 (VM)

Richard Holder – 201 #447-3821 (VM)

BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION SPECIALIST

Hazel Harris – Office #447-3871

GIFTED/TALENTED

Susan Blue – 410 #447-3819

COUNSELOR

Tammy Ringler – 408 #447-3833

SPEECH

Steve McGuire – 311 #447-3852

TECHNOLOGY SPECIALIST

Debbie Hipps – 403 #447-3839

MUSIC SPECIALISTS

Chris Parker – 402/404 #447-3825 and 447-3848

Debbie Headley – 401/404 #447-3872 and 447-3848

CREATIVE MOVEMENT SPECIALISTS

Chris Henry – Gym #447-3815
Micaela Battles – 406 #447-3858

VISUAL ART SPECIALIST

Carrie Porter – 411 #447-3862

DRAMA SPECIALIST

Deborah Ramsey – 405 #447-3860
Mariah Reescano – 405 #447-3860

READING TEACHER

Ruth Keogh – 105 #447-3849

ACADEMIC INTERVENTION SPECIALIST

Amy Hallum – 110 #447-3835

MEDIA SPECIALIST

Emily Hester – Media Center #447-3806

MEDIA CLERK

Carolyn Milton – Media Center #447-3855

NURSE

Uvita Scott – Health Room #447-3805

PARAPROFESSIONALS

Kerry Evans – #447-3818 (VM)
Valeria Freeman (ISS) – 104 #447-3816
Pamela Graves – #447-3856 (VM)
Brenda Woods – #447-3873 (VM)

CUSTODIANS

Joseph Hall (Head) – #447-3808
Kenneth Jackson – #447-3841 (VM)
Quinton Minton – #447-3820 (VM)
Fanton Sims – #447-3857 (VM)

CAFETERIA

Marlene Taylor (Manager) – Cafeteria #447-3807
Stephanie Johnson – Cafeteria #447-3851 (VM)
Ruby Steward – Cafeteria #447-3812 (VM)
Christal Williams – Cafeteria #447-3826 (VM)
Marcey Williams – Cafeteria #447-3828 (VM)

Parent Involvement Opportunities in Our School

PTA Committees

The PTA has many committees to support our school such as special events committees, fundraising committees, and membership committees! The PTA is a great organization that provides opportunities for parents to become more involved in their child's school and education! We need your time and talent! The PTA membership fee is \$5! **Call Ellen Miller at 612-3064 or email BookerPTA@lrsd.org for information on becoming a PTA member and volunteering for committees!**

2018-2019 PTA Board Members

President: Ellen Miller

1st Vice President: Maggie Galvan

2nd Vice President: Tywana Lambert

3rd Vice President: Hazel Harris

Treasurer: LaShon Christopher

Secretary: Ceola Parson

Parent and Family Engagement Committee

The Parent and Family Engagement Committee plans, organizes and hosts family nights for our school. Our events include Family Math and Literacy Night. The Parent and Family Engagement Committee specializes in building a school community where parents, teachers, and students work together to ensure a positive, nurturing environment while providing the highest quality education for all students! **Contact Emily Hester at 447-3806 or emily.hester@lrsd.org for more information to join our committee!**

Classroom Volunteers

Your child's classroom teacher needs your help! Give him/her a call and ask how you can lend a helping hand! You will be much appreciated!

Ways You Can Help Your Child at Home!

- ☆ Ask to see your child's schoolwork on a regular basis.
- ☆ Create a special, quiet, well lit place for your child to study and do homework.
- ☆ Read to your child and encourage her or him to read to you.
- ☆ Set a good example by letting your child see you read.
- ☆ Be selective about what your child watches on T.V. Set limits of no more than one hour a day.
- ☆ Praise and award your child for accomplished goals.
- ☆ Make sure your child receives a good, balanced diet, including breakfast each morning.
- ☆ Make sure your child gets to bed early and receives no less than 8 hours of sleep each night.
- ☆ Notify the teacher of any health or emotional concerns.
- ☆ Make sure your child dresses appropriately for the weather.
- ☆ Immunize your child.
- ☆ Keep your child at home if she or he is not well.
- ☆ Be available to help your child with her or his homework.
- ☆ Take your child to local museums, cultural activities and libraries.
- ☆ Encourage your child to participate in a sport or other wholesome activity.
- ☆ Discipline your child fairly and consistently.
- ☆ Establish a set of rules and routines for everyone in the family.
- ☆ Help your child develop good study habits by:
 - Making sure he/she has all necessary materials (paper, pencil, notebook, etc.)
 - Encouraging him/her to listen well and take part in classroom discussions
 - Encouraging him/her to ask for help when he/she is having difficulties
 - Encouraging him/her to complete assignment agenda books
 - Making time for homework each evening
 - Helping him/her to use what he/she learns and make real life connections
 - Encouraging him/her to do his/her best
- ☆ Get involved in your child's education by volunteering in his or her classroom and participating in school activities.

Tips for Effective Teacher Conferences

Research indicates that to help students be successful teachers must know as much as they can about each student. No one knows more about these things than you, the parents. So, that is why teachers and parents must work together to ensure that your student has a successful learning experience. Communication is the key.

Pre-Conference: Ways to Prepare

- ☆ Talk to your children before the conference.
- ☆ Find out what they would like for you to discuss with their teachers.
- ☆ Find out what they think are their strengths and weaknesses.
- ☆ Explain to them that parents and teachers must keep an open line of communication in order to help them.
- ☆ Write down notes about your child's personality, problems, habits, and hobbies that might be important for the teacher to know.
- ☆ Write down your concerns about the school's program and policies.
- ☆ Write down your questions about your child's progress.
- ☆ Suggest ways on how you and the teacher can work together to help your child.

Conference: Good Questions to Ask

- ☆ What are my child's strengths and weaknesses?
- ☆ Is my child working up to his/her ability?
- ☆ Does my child participate in class discussions and activities?
- ☆ Have you noticed any changes in my child's behavior lately that indicates a problem?
- ☆ Is my child turning in his/her daily assignments and homework?
- ☆ How does my child perform on tests?

Make sure you and your child's teacher come up with strategies to address any issues that need to be resolved.

Post-Conference: Ways to Follow Up

- ☆ Be sure to start immediately with the action plan that you and the teacher have worked out together.
- ☆ Monitor your child's homework, class work, and behavior to see if the plan is being implemented and if it is working.
- ☆ Maintain regular contact with the teacher.

Parent Center

The Parent Center is located in the Literacy Lounge adjacent to the Media Center. It contains updated materials using Parent Involvement funds such as a computer with printer, parenting books, magazines, DVDs, pamphlets, and other educational resources. The Parent Center is open from 7:40-3:00 Monday – Friday.

The following are just a few of the valuable resources we have available for checkout:

Helping Your Child Succeed in School

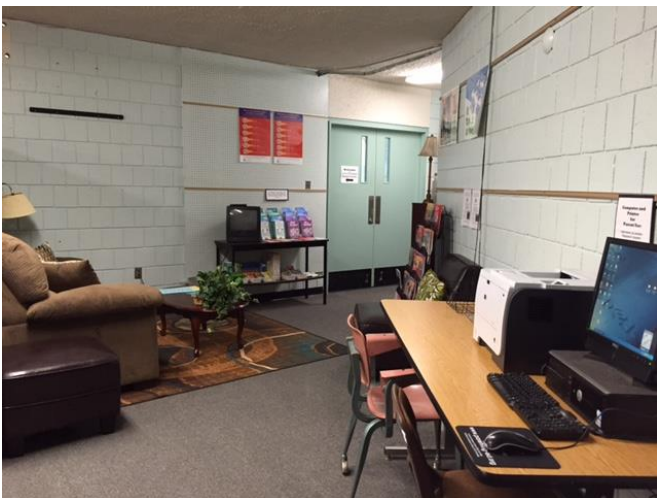
123 Magic Series (parenting book and video)

Dealing With Your Kids 7 Biggest Problems

Go To Your Room: Consequences that Teach

Sensational Kids

Free pamphlets and booklets in English and Spanish are also located in the Parent Center.



Six Types of Involvement: Keys to Successful Partnerships

TYPE 1

Parenting

Assist families with parenting skills and setting home conditions to support children as students. Also, assist schools to better understand families.

TYPE 2

Communicating

Conduct effective communications from school-to-home and from home-to-school about school programs and student progress.

TYPE 3

Volunteering

Organize volunteers and audiences to support the school and students. Provide volunteer opportunities in various locations and at various times.

TYPE 4

Learning at Home

Involve families with their children on homework and other curriculum-related activities and decisions.

TYPE 5

Decision Making

Include families as participants in school decisions, and develop parent leaders and representatives.

TYPE 6

Collaborating with the Community

Coordinate resources and services from the community for families, students, and the school, and provide services to the community.

Epstein, et. al. 2002. *School, Family, and Community Partnerships: Your Handbook for Action, Second Edition*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press, Inc.