



# NORTHWEST MIDDLE SCHOOL

## THE ACE NETWORK

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ALFREDA SMITH, PRINCIPAL

HOME OF THE FALCONS

### 2021-2022 Parent/Family Engagement Policy

The Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Board of Education recognizes a child's education is a responsibility shared by the school and family during the entire period the child spends in school. To support the goal of this school district to educate all students effectively, schools and parents must work as knowledgeable partners.

As a result, Northwest Middle School incorporates this belief into an action plan to continue increasing student achievement.

**Vision:** Northwest Middle School focuses on excellence in education. Our goal is to provide superior classroom instruction that will assist students to be successful in their formal education and beyond through implementation of the "ACE Network."

We believe that by focusing on 1) Achievement 2) Character Education and 3) Engaging Technology, all children will learn and be successful in school and in life. We believe it takes the entire school family (faculty, staff, parents, and business partners) to nurture, guide and mentor our students to become well-rounded, disciplined, and responsible citizens.

**Mission:** Northwest Falcons are a strong and diverse family building future-ready leaders and scholars.

#### I. Convening the Annual Title I Public Meeting

Northwest Middle School will host two public meets for all parents and staff members (one in the Fall and one in the Spring).

- a. This meeting is to inform parents about their rights under the law and to provide them with the information that will allow them to be fully active in their child's education.
- b. This meeting will be held in the evening. An additional meeting will be held the following morning for those unable to attend the evening meeting.
- c. The information shared at the Annual Public meeting will also be shared with parents of new students as they enroll to Northwest Middle School.

#### II. Offering Flexible Meetings/Activities & Inclusive Meetings/Activities

- a. Parent meetings will be held at various times in the evening to make it convenient for parents to attend. An additional meeting will be held the following school day for those unable to attend.
- b. School meetings/activities will include both English & Spanish forms of communication. Staff will be present to assist in both languages.

#### III. Involving Parents in an Organized, Ongoing, and Timely Way

- a. Parents will have online access to their student's grades and attendance via Canvas/Parent Portal.
- b. Education sessions will also be conducted throughout the school year to share ways to assist parents and teachers to work together as partners.
- c. Parents will also be trained to assist other parents to enhance the involvement of all family members.
- d. Suggestions and/or recommendations at all meetings will be conducted so that parents may participate in the school's decision-making. Both paper & online surveys for parents/families will be available to parents so that they have a chance to provide feedback. Any questions and concerns will be addressed each quarter throughout the year.
- e. Parents will also be provided opportunities to volunteer within the school in order to have a chance to be actively involved in their student's education. Ultimately, NWMS would like parents to help to develop support groups for families to join.

#### IV. Allocating Reasonable and Necessary Expenses Associated with Parent/Family Engagement Activities"

- a. We will use Title I funds to eliminate barriers that prevent parents/families from participating in workshop sessions.

#### V. Educating School Staff in Building Parent/Family Capacity

With the assistance of parents if possible, dedicate portions of the faculty meeting to have mini-sessions on how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners. Encourage staff to implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school.

- a. Create Opportunities for parents to participate in a forum to share information with faculty and staff relevant to their areas of knowledge and expertise (i.e., Parents, whose native language is Spanish, could offer a session in which the focus is educating faculty and staff in conversational Spanish).
- b. Provide up-to-date materials, research and data pertaining to effective parental involvement and what authentic, parental engagement looks like in relation to the improvement of student academic achievement
- c. Offer to staff (and parents/families) Gang & Drug Awareness and Parent/School Communication and Partnership courses

#### VI. Providing Timely Information

Parents will receive information on a regular basis in the following ways:

- a. Weekly Sunday phone calls from Principal Smith
- b. Grade level curriculum nights during the fall & spring semester
- c. Parent/Family workshops
- d. Monthly parent/family newsletter from the Parent/Family Engagement Coordinator
- e. Student grades via Parent Portal and Canvas
- f. Virtual Family Resource Room
- g. Student Report Cards Every Quarter
- h. Blackboard communications - email, text message features
- i. Social Media - Northwest Middle School Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube

## **VII. Generating a School-Parent-Student Compact**

The School-Parent-Student Compact outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will SHARE RESPONSIBILITY for student academic achievement at NWMS. It includes how the school & parents will develop a partnership to help students achieve State standards.

- a. The Compact is developed and/or reviewed at the end of the school year for the UPCOMING school year. A team of parents, staff, and students will review the Compact and offer suggestions regarding the document.
- b. Grade level Compacts will then be presented at the beginning of the NEW school year. Signed Compacts will be filed in each teacher's room, and a signed roster of completed Compacts will be kept by the Family Engagement Coordinator.

## **VIII. Providing for Parent Comments**

This family engagement policy and other school concerns will be reviewed throughout the year (via survey and/or parent meetings). All concerns will be submitted to the Family Engagement Coordinator, Principal, and WSFCS District. An overall annual survey will also be conducted near the end of the school year as well.

## **IX. Curriculum and Assessments**

Northwest Middle School teachers will utilize the NC Standard Course of Study for all courses to guide our instructional planning and curriculum decisions. Additionally, in English as a Second Language classes, teachers will utilize the WIDA standards to design instruction to meet students' needs. Northwest Middle School also serves students with various exceptionalities including sensory impairments and cognitive needs.

We use I-Ready, (beginning, mid-year and end-of-year) diagnostic results to further assess reading and math. We also use classroom tests and benchmark assessments. Our curriculum is described in the school-parent/family-student compact and in this policy.

The North Carolina End-of-Grade Tests are designed to measure student performance on the goals, objectives, and grade-level competencies specified in the North Carolina Standard Course of Study. On state assessments, student performance will be reported based on the following achievement levels. Students scoring Not Proficient have limited knowledge and skills of the tested content area. Students scoring at level 3 have sufficient knowledge and skills of the tested content area and are considered grade-level proficient. Students scoring at levels 4 and 5 have solid and superior knowledge and skills of the tested area and are considered on track to be college and career ready by the time they graduate high school.