

SWES Family Communication

- Provide information to families/parents at least two weeks in advance
- Advertise events and meetings in various forms (website, flyers, callouts, newsletters, etc.) in student's home language
- Provide ways for families/parents to give feedback to improve events and trainings for parents and staff
- Explain the curriculum and academic assessments used to measure student progress and proficiency
- Help teachers, families/parents, and students work effectively together
- Open door policy with Administration: Parents may come or call to ask for a meeting, and if they are not available, then our administration will call you back within 24 hours during the week and on Mondays for communication made over the weekend
- Hold flexible number of meetings to allow the maximum number of families to attend
- Home Visits by Administration or other school staff as needed for assistance

Family/Parent-School Compacts

SWES has created with the input from students, families/parents, and teachers compacts to make sure all the above parties work together successfully. These were jointly developed with feedback from our Spring Family Forum, Annual Evaluation Survey, teacher meetings, and student surveys. Compacts will be used at conferences held between families and teachers during the year. Compacts are intended to be a partnership between home and school to help

Family Resource Center

Come check out our Family Resource Center located in Room 401! It is full of materials waiting to be checked out and taken home to assist your child and you with many educational needs.

Family Resource Center hours:

**Monday-Friday
8:45 A.M. – 3:45 P.M.**

*Special hours for many after school events. *

Family Engagement

Family Engagement means the participation of families/parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including:

- That families/parents play an integral role in their child's learning.
- That families/parents are encouraged to be actively engaged in their child's education at school.
- That families/parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child.

**ASK HOW YOU CAN BECOME A BEACON
VOLUNTEER AT OUR SCHOOL!**

Family Engagement Policy

2020-2021



Southwest Elementary School
6020 Ogeechee Road
Savannah, GA 31419
912-395-3301

Principal: Tara Fitzgerald

Family Engagement Facilitator:

Erin Allen

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Revised: May 12, 2020

The principal will submit to the district Title I office via email any comments of parents who feel the school improvement plan is not satisfactory.

What is Title I?

Southwest Elementary School is considered a Title I school because of its free and reduced lunches. Therefore, as a Title I school, our goal is to make a bridge from school to home in order to create a successful academic future for our students.

Family Engagement Policy

What is it?

The policy establishes the school's expectations for family engagement and describes how the school will implement a number of specific family/parental involvement activities.

How is it revised?

Each year we invite all parents and families to attend our Annual Family Forum in the Spring to review and revise the family engagement policy, as well as the school improvement plan, our school-family/parent compacts and 1% family engagement budget. The policy is posted on our school website. All family feedback received during the year will be used to revise the policy for the next school year.

We also distribute an annual evaluation survey online and send home to ask family members for their suggestions on the policy and the use of funds for family engagement

Who is it for?

This document is for all current families/parents and students, as well as, future members of our school. We want everyone at our school to feel and be an important part of the decision-making process.

Where is the Family Engagement Policy Available?

The SWES Family Engagement policy will be sent home with students in August, posted on the school website, distributed at the Title I Annual Meeting and available in the Family Engagement Center and Front Office.

Meetings/Events for 2020-2021

Build Family Capacity

- Title I Annual Meeting(held twice)
 - o What is Title I?
 - o Parent's Right to be Involved
 - o School Improvement Plan
 - o School Parent Policy
 - o District Parent Policy
 - o School-Parent Compacts
 - o 1% Family Engagement Budget
- State and Benchmark Tests: MAP (Reading and Math)/ /GMAS Meeting
 - o Proficiency scores that are necessary for each assessment & content area
 - o How to understand scores
- Literacy Night
 - o Grade level Learning Stations
 - o Guest Readers
 - o Take home materials
 - o Community Businesses
 - o Educational websites
- Parent Workshops
 - o Eureka Math
 - o GMAS Prep
 - o MAP
 - o Other workshops by parent/family request

Transition/Collaboration

Moving On Up: Middle School Transition Activities with SWMS

- Kindergarten Orientation
 - o 2 meetings in the spring for incoming kindergarten parents

- Family Engagement Center Open House
 - o Check out helpful materials to take home
- Back to School Night
 - o Meet the Teacher
 - o Q & A
 - o Class schedule
- STEAM Night
 - o Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math activities
 - o Art activities & displays
 - o Take home materials
 - o Community Businesses

****This list is subject to change****

****Meetings may be added due to parent/family request****

Building Staff Capacity

SWES trains its teachers on how to work and communicate successfully with families/parents to include:

- The value and contributions of families to student academic success
- In how to reach out to, communicate with and work with families as equal partners
- To implement and coordinate family programs and build ties between home and school