

Addendum Central Middle School Parent Involvement Plan 2010-2011 School Year

Central Middle School will strive to involve parents in the student's education and understands the parents' rights to be involved in their child's progress. Parents will be notified of any meetings, parent programs, and other activities taking place at Central Middle School in a timely manner and in an understandable language. Parents will be notified by any the following methods:

- Alert Now phone calls
- Postings in the Morgan County News
- Announcements on the local radio station, WECO
- Postings in the school newsletter
- Postings on the school website
- Signs on the school doors
- Individual letters sent home from individual teachers
- E-mails sent to those parents who provide their E-mail address
- Announcements made over the intercom and posted to the school's website.

Parents are invited to set up meetings with teachers at any time to discuss problems their children may be encountering or to voice their input, concerns, and suggestions regarding the school, their child's education, and its policies. Response to the parent's input, concerns, and suggestions will be made as soon as possible. These meetings may take place in the mornings or evenings and may be scheduled with the teachers individually or they may take place during the teacher's team meeting times which are right after school if the parent needs to meet with all of the child's teachers at the same time. The school will also have an open house at the beginning of the year to encourage parents to come out to meet the teachers and visit the school. Each nine weeks there will be parent-teacher conferences held at the school to allow parents to come and discuss their child's progress. Transportation and accommodations will be provided to those parents who have special needs. Central Middle School will find a means to provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request and will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports in a language such parents understand.

At the beginning of every year, all teachers distribute to their students, the *Parent/Teacher/Student Compact*. This compact is signed by the parent, teacher, and student recognizing the responsibility of each in order to ensure that student's way to a successful school year. The compact outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and the students themselves will share the responsibility

for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's high standards.

The school will also keep parents informed of activities going on at school. Central Middle School has a school website which helps communicate and connect parents to the following information:

- Daily School Announcements
- Electronic Copy of the Monthly Newsletter
- Educational Links for Parents and Students
- Teacher Websites & E-mail addresses
- School Calendar
- Link to the County's Website
- School Policies
- Recognition of Students in Various Activities and Academics

School activities at Central Middle School include After School, basketball, football, cheerleading, band, Yearbook, homework help in the mornings, Student of the Month, Honor Roll, and Renaissance assemblies.

Teachers at Central Middle School have created web pages for their classes. Currently there are 11 teachers with teacher websites. Parents and students can visit the school webpage and be connected with the teacher's websites within minutes. Teachers, who have their own web site, keep their own website up to date with important information for and about the classroom. Teachers are also able to use the website as a teaching tool for quizzes, worksheets, and other various assignments. Parents can go online and see what homework their child may have and they can find their child's teacher's e-mail address if there is a need to contact them.

There is a newsletter that is sent home each month to let parents know what has been going on at school and any upcoming events. The newsletter has valuable dates and information to communicate to parents and students from the teachers and administration at Central Middle School. Packets with plans, policies, letters, handouts, and forms are sent home with the student's progress reports and grade cards. The teachers and administration also use the Alert Now phone call system in case there is a need to contact parents immediately.

A Parent Involvement Committee was formed at Central Middle School during the 2005-2006 school year. The committee met several times and discussed various topics such as middle school curriculum, rules & regulations, scheduling, teacher web sites, sports, and many more topics. This committee enabled parents to sit down and communicate with teachers as well as administration, many of their concerns, comments, or ideas. This was also a

time where parents are involved in the planning, reviewing, and improvement of the parent involvement programs, school parental involvement policy, and the joint development of the school-wide program plan.

Parents also participate in the Title 1 Committee meeting which is held annually at 3:30 or 6:00 per request of the parents for their convenience. Parents have the opportunity to review the Title 1 folder and policies within the folder. Parents are able to voice their opinion, give their input, and help create and update policies and school wide plans pertaining to Title 1. The Parent Involvement Policy will be written and explained so that all parents will be able to understand it. The Parent Involvement Policy is developed with parental input and is distributed to parents at the Title 1 Committee meeting. The Parent Involvement Policy will also be posted on the school website as well as distributed with the school newsletter. The Title 1 Committee meeting is another time that where parents are involved in the planning, reviewing, and improvement of the parent involvement programs, school parental involvement policy, and the joint development of the school-wide program plan. Central Middle School works to educate teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school. Teachers and administrators strive to address these points at any meeting with parents in order to get their suggestions on how the teachers and administrators can improve on those vital points.

Central Middle School has a 6th grade transition meeting for those students who are coming from the Central Elementary School. Parents and students have a chance to meet the teachers and administration. Parents are also given a chance to walk through their child's schedule with them to see where their classes are located as well as become familiar with the school. Parents of 8th grade students are also provided with a transition meeting at the high school to assist those 8th graders who will be going to Central High in the Fall. Counselors, teachers, and parents work with the students to prepare and provide the students with all materials they need to ensure a smooth transition to the high school.

Central Middle School's curriculum consists of classes in Math, Pre-Algebra, Algebra, Language Arts, Reading, Science, Social Studies, Library & Media Literacy, Physical Education, Band, and Computer Technology. Forms of assessment include TCAP, Orchard and ThinkLink testing. Teachers attend training classes in order to understand the interpretation of the results from these assessments. Teachers are then empowered with the knowledge to take the results and discuss with the parents, the progress of the students and their proficiency levels and how they can improve their child's education while working

with the teacher and school. The student proficiency levels for the assessment results are based on four achievement levels and are as follows:

- **Below Basic** – Students who perform at this level **have not** demonstrated mastery in academic performance, thinking abilities, and application of understandings that reflect the knowledge and skill specified by the grade/course level content standards and are not prepared for the next level of study.
- **Basic** – Students who perform at this level demonstrate **partial** mastery in academic performance, thinking abilities, and application of understandings that reflect the knowledge and skill specified by the grade/course level content standards and are minimally prepared for the next level of study.
- **Proficient** – Students who perform at this level demonstrate **mastery** in academic performance, thinking abilities, and application of understandings that reflect the knowledge and skill specified by the grade/course level content standards and are prepared for the next level of study.
- **Advanced** – Students who perform at this level demonstrate **superior** mastery in academic performance, thinking abilities, and application of understandings that reflect the knowledge and skill specified by the grade/course level content standards and are significantly prepared for the next level of study.

Central Middle School realizes for a child to get a good education there has to be parent involvement. It is so important to have good communication between teachers and parents. Central Middle School prides itself on the opportunities it already provides parents and teachers with to enable successful communication such as parent teacher conferences, frequent child progress reports for parents, access to staff when in need of a meeting, opportunities to volunteer and participate/observe in their child's classroom activities. Central Middle School strives to build a capacity for more parent involvement by trying to help parents understand topics such as the State's academic content standards, State student academic achievement standards, State and local academic assessments, the requirements of parent involvement, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their child. Teachers are eager to go over these major points with parents at the various meetings as were mentioned earlier. Teachers who have a teacher website also post these important standards on their web pages to give parents an opportunity to review these standards at their convenience. Central Middle School will also strive to provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology. Training classes in both of these have been offered at Central Middle School during the After School Program in previous years.

Along with the previously mentioned meetings and activities, parents of students at Central Middle School can be involved in any assortment of ways. They can be on the school TSIP committee, Parent Involvement Committee, participate in the AR program, attend after school during Open Computer Lab to have access to computers, contact the teacher about their child's progress and provide input, and get help with homework. Parents can ask how their child's school day went and discuss and problems and brainstorm solutions and discuss upcoming events.

Central Middle School will ask for parental input to periodically revise the Parent Involvement Policy by offering contact information when the Parent Involvement Policy is distributed as well as distributing surveys asking for parental input.