

AR
 William O. Darby Junior High School (Fort Smith School District)
 616 North 14th St
 Fort Smith AR 72901
 479-783-4159

School Parent and Family Engagement Plan

***Please note: Your 20-21 plan has been populated below. Please make revisions or delete and paste your updated plan for 21-22.**

[Click to view Required Components Checklist](#)

School Name:	William O Darby Junior High
Facilitator Name:	Cherri Byford
Plan Review/Revision Date:	7/20/2021
District Level Reviewer, Title:	Caroline Neel, Supervisor of Curriculum & Federal Programs
District Level Approval Date:	7/23/2021

Committee Members, Role:

(Select "Repeat" to open more entry fields to add additional team members)

First Name	Last Name	Position
Katie	Kreimer-Hall	Principal
Cherri	Byford	Counselor/Parent Facilitator
Cassidy	Hodge	Counselor
Ana	Funes	Parent
Amy	Tecmire	Parent and PTSA officer
Ami	Griggs	Alumni

1: Jointly Developed

(Describe/List how parents will be involved in the development of the school parent and family engagement plan and how parents will be involved in the planning, review, and improvement of parent and family engagement programs.)

Does the School Parent and Family Engagement Plan describe how the school will accomplish each of the required components?

Darby Junior High School recognizes that a student's education is a responsibility shared by the entire school community during the entire time the child spends in school. To support the goals of Darby to educate all students effectively, the school and community must work as knowledgeable partners. Parents are an integral component of our school's ability to provide for the educational success of our students. Darby Junior High fosters and supports active parental involvement.

Parents are invited to sit on various committees; such as parental involvement committee, needs assessment committee and graduation requirement committee.

Parents are invited to review Darby's process for resolving concerns should there be a breakdown in communications. Parents are encouraged to meet and discuss the latest educational technology, graduation requirements, prerequisite criteria and exit criteria.

2: Annual Title I Meeting

(Describe/List when (provide the month/year or month/day/year) the school will hold the Annual Title I meeting to inform parents of the requirements of Title I and the school's participation as well as the parents' rights to be involved. The Annual Title I meeting should not be used to ask for parent input, but provided as an opportunity to disseminate information and distribute copies of the revised parent and family engagement policy.)

Does the School Parent and Family Engagement Plan describe how the school will accomplish each of the required components?

Darby Junior High held it's annual open house August 2021 at 5:00 p.m. Open House gives parents the opportunity to meet the teachers and be informed on teacher/classroom expectations. Other information obtained at open house include: a report on the state of the school, an overview of what students will be learning, how students are assessed, parental expectations and parental involvement opportunities. Darby will provide a list of volunteer opportunities during orientation of parents. Teachers will explain the requirements to parents and encourage them to become involved in the school. Each family is provided with a Darby handbook which contains information concerning Darby's policies and procedures. Families are also provided with a current district calendar which informs them of athletic events and extra curricular activities for students and parents.

Darby Junior High School has 95% of the student population receiving free or reduced lunch. Under the school accountability for public schools in the state of Arkansas, Darby Junior High School is considered a Needs Improvement Targeted Focus School.

3: Communications

(Describe/List how the parent and family engagement policy will be distributed to parents and how the school is going to communicate with parents including information about how the school will provide information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities to parents in a format, to the extent practicable, and in a language that parents can understand.)

Does the School Parent and Family Engagement Plan describe how the school will accomplish each of the required components?

The website address for Darby Junior High is <http://www.fortsmithschools.org/darby/Home.aspx>. This website contains information about Darby's mission, history, academics, faculty events, extra-curricular activities, policies and our school's safety guidelines. Parents will be able to locate our parent and family engagement plan on the website.

Darby has a facebook page, twitter page and instagram page. Parents have access to these accounts by "like" our page and will have up to date information about events, announcements and general information.

Darby has LiveSchool to document student behavior. Parents and students have online access to the documentation.

Fort Smith School District utilizes a computer program called HAC. This program has a parent viewer which allows parents to view students grades, attendance and next years class selections on a daily basis.

Darby will provide a list of volunteer opportunities during orientation of parents. This information is also given to

the students at the beginning of the year in their information packet that is taken home to the parents.

Darby holds 3 cafecito meetings a year first one in September 2021 to go over information with our Spanish speaking parents and answer any questions in their native language.

Parents are able to communicate with teachers and staff through social media messaging, email, phone calls and face to face.

Daily announcements are broadcasted in all classrooms.

Darby Junior High schedules two parent/teacher conferences every school year.

Report cards and mid term grades are sent on a scheduled basis. Mid terms go home every three weeks. Four PTSA meetings are held during the school year. One issue the PTSA works on is the school parent compact. The school and parents will build a partnership to help children achieve the state's high academic standards. All stakeholders will sign the compact.

Darby Junior High is subscribed to parent institute online.com which provided daily tips for parents in English and Spanish. These tips are published on the school facebook page 7 days a week.

4: School-Parent Compact

(Describe/List the process the schools will follow to jointly develop with parents a school-parent compact.)

Does the School Parent and Family Engagement Plan describe how the school will accomplish each of the required components?

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Darby will provide a list of volunteer opportunities during orientation of parents. This information is also given to the students at the beginning of the year in their information packet that is taken home to the parents.

Teachers and administration frequently communicate through email. Teacher's email addresses are posted on Darby's website. General homework resources, subject area resources and educational resources and links may be viewed on the Darby Junior High website. Teachers also have google classrooms set up and parents are able to communicate through this means.

Parents have the opportunity to volunteer to work in the Darby school store, at extra curricular activities and to assist our students earn volunteer hours needed for their community service class. Darby also has a mentoring program that adults from the community volunteer for this program.

Parents are encouraged to visit a child's classroom, attend sports activities and extra curricular events.

5: Reservation of Funds

(If the district receives more than \$500,000 in Title I allocation, then it must reserve 1 percent for parent and family engagement activities. A minimum of 90% of that 1% must go to the schools, with priority given to high-need schools. If the school is allocated a percentage of the 1 percent, describe/list how the school will share with parents the budget for parent and family engagement activities and programs and how parents will

be involved in providing input into how the funds are used.)

Does the School Parent and Family Engagement Plan describe how the school will accomplish each of the required components?

Each year, Darby Junior High submits how parent involvement funds will be spent with their Title I budget sheet.

On TBA Darby Junior High had a parent meeting where they discussed the needs of the parents, ways that the school could help the parents become more involved with their children(s) school life, ways to build relationships and how the teachers could use added support. Then Darby Junior High held a PTSA meeting TBA where it was discussed how to use the parent and family engagement funds to meet the needs discussed on TBA meeting. A follow up Cafecito meeting was held TBA where the information was shared again in Spanish.

6: Coordination of Services

(Describe/List how the district and/or school will coordinate with other organizations, businesses, and community partners to provide additional supports and resources to families.)

Does the School Parent and Family Engagement Plan describe how the school will accomplish each of the required components?

Darby Junior High is partnered with great businesses in the community. These partner in education members work with Darby through mentoring, students of the month activities, attendance incentives, community class, teach our students to quilt and/or crochet.

Fort Smith's community has many resources that are available to our families such as: Clearing House, library, United Way and many of the church organizations do activities for the community. Parents are able to participate in parenting classes, how to help your teen study classes and how to help your teens be safe.

Mentoring at Darby Junior High has speakers from the community speak to the group at least two times a semester.

A parent resource center is stationed in the media center. The center provides information about programs and resources within the community which provide support services to families. Materials to assist parents in their child's academic achievement are located in the center, as well as materials which involve the growth and development of adolescence and related adolescent issues (Drug use, depression, etc.) Many of the materials are free while others may be checked out. Parents are made aware of the center and its contents through discussions at PTSA meetings.

The community participates in ICAN expo and Career Days. These days business showcase their business where students learn about opportunities available in the community.

Four PTSA meetins are held during the school year. One issue the PTSA works on is the school parent compact. The school and parents will build a partnership to help children achieve the state's high academic standards. All stakeholders will sign the compact.

7: Building Capacity of Parents

(Describe/List activities, such as workshops, conferences, classes, online resources, Academic Parent-Teacher Team meetings, and any equipment or other materials that may be necessary to support parents in helping their student's academic success.)

Does the School Parent and Family Engagement Plan describe how the school will accomplish each of the required components?

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Report cards and mid term grades are sent on a scheduled basis. Mid terms go home every three weeks. Four PTSA meetins are held during the school year. One issue the PTSA works on is the school parent compact. The school and parents will build a partnership to help children achieve the state's high academic standards. All stakeholders will sign the compact.

Teachers and administration frequently communicate through email. Teacher's email addresses are posted on Darby's website. General homework resources, subject area resources and educational resources and links may be viewed on the Darby Junior High website. Teachers also have google classrooms set up and parents are able to communicate through this means.

Parents are encouraged to visit a child's classroom, attend sports activities and extra curricular events.

Darby holds 3 cafecito meetings a year first one in TBA to go over information with our Spanish speaking parents and answer any questions in their native language.

Standardized test results are sent home while counselors serve as a resource to help parents interpret scores.

Student success plans are developed with the student, parent and trained school official having conversations about the students interests after high school and what classes are needed in school to achieve this goal.

8: Building Capacity of School Staff

(Describe/List activities such as workshops, conferences, trainings, webinars, online resources, and Academic Parent-Teacher Team meetings that will be used with school staff to build their capacity to work with parents as equal partners. Describe/List methods of parents' assistance for building staff capacity. Describe/List actions the school will take to provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities.)

Does the School Parent and Family Engagement Plan describe how the school will accomplish each of the required components?

Darby Junior High Staff have the opportunity to obtain training for parental involvement by participating in IDEAS Family & Community Engagement: Inviting Caregivers & Community Partners Into School or The Six Components of Parental Involvement for Teachers.

Parents are invited to sit on various committees; such as parental involvement committee, needs assessment committee and graduation requirement committee.

Parents are invited to review Darby's process for resolving concerns should there be a breakdown in communications. Parents are encouraged to meet and discuss the latest educational technology, graduation requirements, prerequisite criteria and exit criteria.

The parental involvement program at Darby Junior High will involve parents of students at all grade levels in a variety of roles, be comprehensive and coordinated in nature, and recognize that communication between home and school should be regular, two-way, and meaningful. To encourage communication with parents, the school shall prepare an informational packet to be distributed annually to the parent of each child in the school, appropriate for the age and grade of the child. The school may plan and engage in other activities determined by the school to be beneficial to encourage communication with parents. The school will make efforts to promote and support responsible parenting.

The Board of Education believes that all students benefit when the relationship between the home and school is strengthened. Therefore, the Board encourages families to participate in PTA activities and other school functions that strengthen those bonds.

9: Building Capacity - Discretionary

(The school parent and family engagement policy/plan may include additional sections describing other discretionary activities that the school, in meaningful consultation with its parents, chooses to undertake to

build capacity.)

Did the School and Parents choose to include any Discretionary (Optional) Components in the School Parent and Family Engagement Plan?

(Find complete guidance on the [DESE Parent and Family Engagement Requirements](#) webpage.)

District Feedback

- Attention: Changes Needed!
 - In Compliance
-

Comments:

7/23/21

Very nice work! :) Please include a tentative date for your Title I Meeting (could even be something like August 2021)

After making the revision to the date, go to the submissions tab and submit your plan. A PDF will be create that you will need to post to your school's website under State Required Information prior to August 1, 2021.