



PARENTAL and FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

Dr. Joy Dorsey-Whiting
Principal

SCHOOL YEAR 2023 - 2024

Assistant Principals
Ms. Johanna Espinal
Dr. Tara Skiba
Ms. Najran Cowins
Mr. Mark Johnson

VISION

**PRIDE
PASSION
PURPOSE**

Hackensack Middle School strives to be an inviting learning environment where there is a shared passion for learning and nurturing will be developed and sustained. In collaboration with students, teachers, families, the community, and the entire school district, we will prepare all of our students with a comprehensive education. Through academics, the arts, athletics, and extra-curricular experiences, our students become productive and responsible life-long learners. Our qualified educators will motivate students and help them become self-directed, confident learners who achieve at their highest levels.

Annual Meeting

A public meeting shall be held this year on September 20, 2023 for the express purpose of informing parents/guardians of the programs and activities provided with Title 1 funds. The information shared shall include:

- Informing parents/guardians of their right to consult in the design and implementation of the Title 1 project;
- Providing parents/guardians with information about the Title 1 law, regulations and instructional programs;
- Soliciting parents/guardians' input about basic skills improvement programs and related activities;
- Providing parents/guardians an opportunity to establish mechanisms for maintaining ongoing communication among parents/guardians, staff, and the board.

School-Parent Compact

Hackensack Middle School has developed, and will annually update, a parent-school compact. This compact serves as an agreement between the home and school and outlines the expectations for student success and achievement as well as the responsibilities of all parties in meeting that goal. We will explain the School-Parent Compact on September 20, 2023 and encourage parents to read and adhere to the Compact. We will publish the Parent-School Compact on our district and school websites as well as distribute the Compact via email to all parents.



**Instructional
Programs &
Strategies**

Parents and Students will benefit from Schoolwide Programs which include, but are not limited to:

- Reading and Writing workshop approach in grades 5 and 6;
- Whole Novel Literacy Approach in Grades 7 and 8;
- Illustrative Math in Grades 5-8;
- Amplify Science program in Grade 5; OpenSciEd in Grades 6-8
- Read 180
- Integration of technology in all subject areas, including professional development for all staff;
- Intervention and Referral Services Team to identify students who are struggling academically, behaviorally and socially and to implement interventions around these areas;
- Use of research-based strategies in literacy and math instruction;
- Small group instruction in language arts and math; and
- Extra-curricular activities including: Yearbook, Robotics, National Junior Honor Society, Drama Club, Student Council, TV Studio, Chorus, Band, Dance, Sports

**Parent
Involvement
Opportunities**

Hackensack Middle School provides numerous opportunities for parental/guardian involvement as it strives to develop and maintain an optimum learning environment for all students. Parents and Students will benefit from the Parent Involvement Opportunities which include, but are not limited to:

Back to School Jam (8/26/23)

5th Grade Orientation (8/30/23)

6th-8th Grade Welcome Back to School Family Meeting (8/31/23)

PTA Meetings and Committees (9/20/23 and ongoing)

Back to School Night (9/20/23)

Parent Teacher Conferences (12/12/23 and 12/13/23)

Achieving in the Middle Student Achievement Assemblies (multiple times throughout the year)

Grade Level Dances (Fall/Spring)

Academic Honors Field Trips (TBD)

Sports Events (TBD)

Musical Concerts (Fall/Spring)

Junior National Honor Society Induction Ceremony (TBD)

8th Grade Promotion Ceremony



8th Grade Parent Committee

Parents and Guardian Support

Parents and guardians are asked to give support in the following ways:

- Attend school events, such as open houses, sporting events, concerts and plays
- Make an appointment to seek assistance from teachers to intervene in possible problem areas
- Join the HMS PTA
- Attend parent-teacher conferences and request additional meetings, if needed
- Keep teachers informed about events and issues that may affect your child's work or behavior
- Check their child's backpack every night and talk about homework with your Child
- Provide a healthy diet for your child
- Read to your child, and talk with him or her about what they are reading
- Limit television/video-gaming time, and watch and discuss programs with your child

STAFF AND PARENT/GUARDIAN COMMUNICATION

Parents/guardians will be informed of school activities through various avenues of communication throughout the school year and will be consulted in the implementation of the Title I program. Every parent/guardian of a Title I student will receive proper notification outlining the progress of the student that will specify the areas of needed instruction. The Title I teachers will maintain a record of parent/guardian contacts throughout the school year.

At Hackensack Middle School, we will communicate with parents via:

- Parent Square.
- Email blasts
- Automated phone messages with school announcements
- Instagram and Facebook



- District/School/Teacher websites
- School Report Cards
- School Progress Reports
- Flyers and School Notices about events, policies, and procedures
- Student/Parent Handbook including Code of Conduct
- Phone calls from administrators and teachers about individual students

EVALUATION

Hackensack Middle School will revise the Parent Involvement Policy based on the results of the annual review.