

# **Greenwood Elementary School**

## **Parent Involvement Policy**

**2017-2018**

The parents and staff of Greenwood Elementary School recognize that parent involvement is essential as we partner to ensure the academic success of our students. We seek to increase parent involvement by establishing a positive collaboration between family, school and community in order to produce a stronger educational system.

*A parent includes, in addition to a natural parent, a legal guardian or other person standing in **loco parentis** (such as grandparent or stepparent with whom the child lives, or a person who is legally responsible for the child's welfare).*

### **I. Communication**

In order to have effective school-to-home and home-to-school communication about school/classroom information, programs, curriculum and student progress, the following strategies and activities will be implemented:

School Handbook	Course Syllabi/Grading Policies
Open House	School Website
School Compacts	FaceBook Pages
Parent/Teacher Conferences	Special Event/Reminder notices
Weekly Newsletters	PowerSchool Parent Portal
County/School Calendars	Parent Involvement Committee meetings
Family Nights	Student Planners
Surveys	SIT meetings
Title 1 Night	Parent Advisory Council meetings
P.T.O. meetings	Parent Workshops
Connect Ed Phone Messages	Teacher Text Messaging/DoJo
Midterm Progress Reports/Report Cards	

### **II. Parenting**

These are opportunities to assist parents in developing the skills necessary to support your child's academic achievement at home. A survey will be conducted at the onset of each year to allow parents to make suggestions on such activities. The events and techniques may include, but are not limited to, the following:

Student Exhibitions	P.T.O.
Family Nights	Workshops
Websites (MSDE/MDK12)	PowerGrade
Open House	SIT Meetings
LST meetings	Parent Workshops
Parent Teacher/Conferences	Newsletters

### **III. Student Learning**

The following are strategies and suggestions on how to support students at home with homework and other curriculum-related activities.

#### **A. Homework/Projects**

Homework and classroom projects are a valuable part of schooling. They allow for practicing and extending work done in class, provide parents and caregivers with insights into what is being taught in the classroom, and reaffirm the role of parents/family as partners in education. Parents can help with homework in the following ways:

1. Express interest in your child's school life on a daily basis.
2. Check your child's planner and book bag every night for homework, notes, or other information.
3. Practice math facts until they are automatic.
4. Encourage your child to read or read to them at least 20 minutes every night.

5. Assist your child with being organized. Remind him/her to bring home the materials needed to complete homework.
6. Set up a regular homework time and keep to it.
7. Make certain your child has a quiet place to complete homework without distractions.
8. Check to see that your child's homework is complete and accurate.
9. Contact the teacher if your child has difficulty understanding an assignment.
10. Attend parent workshops.
11. Refer to class syllabus for information regarding assignments.

#### IV. **Volunteering**

Parent participation in school activities demonstrates an active interest in children's studies. Academic abilities may also improve as a result of increased parental involvement in a child's school life. Greenwood Elementary has a volunteer coordinator and an active volunteer program. Each year we welcome new volunteers. If you are interested, you may sign up at any time in the school year with our volunteer coordinator. Family members may volunteer at school, however, there are jobs that can be done at home, also.

Some examples are:

Field trip chaperone	Clerical Assistant
Special Events Assistant	Classroom Helper
Tutoring	Office Helper

Volunteers are required to attend an orientation and have an application on file. Volunteer hours are recorded and documented. Volunteers are acknowledged throughout the school year and during National Volunteer Week in April.

#### V. **School Decision Making and Advocacy**

At Greenwood Elementary School, we understand the importance of parents' input in all facets of education. We seek to involve parents in school decisions in the following ways:

P.T.O.	Parent Involvement Committee
Parent Advisory Council	S.I.T. (School Improvement Team)
Parent surveys/feedback forms	

#### VI. **Collaborating with the Community**

When responsibility for children's learning is shared by the community, children have more opportunities for meaningful learning. Students are able to see the connection between the curriculum in the school and the skills that are required in the real world. Our community has partnered with us in several ways:

1. Maryland Food Bank
2. Salisbury University and UMES – Professional Development School
3. Field trips to local businesses
4. Donations from various businesses to support student programs.
5. SonRise Church, St. Andrew's Church, and Walker Memorial Church
6. Community outreach to the Seton Center, the Homeless Shelter, Manokin Manor, others experiencing special circumstances.
7. UMES Career Day for 5<sup>th</sup> grade students
8. D.A.R.E. – Princess Anne Police Department
9. Somerset County Department of Parks and Recreation- youth league sign-ups and Jr. Olympics.
10. Ace Hardware, Saint Mary's Missionary, Garland Hayward Youth Center, Somerset County Library and Lower Shore YMCA
11. Salisbury University and UMES sponsored STEM Challenge
12. Recycling Program
13. After school programs: Garland Hayward Youth Center and SAILS
14. Horace Mann

Greenwood Elementary School accepts the Somerset County Public Schools' Family Involvement Policy.