Smitha Middle School

Family-School Engagement Policy

2019–2020 School Year

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Plan Revised May 21, 2019

Smitha Middle School Academic Goals

Goal #1 Reading: Improve reading comprehension, writing skills, and vocabulary attainment to decrease the percentages of students performing at Level 1 or 2 on the ELA and Reading Milestones EOG by at least 3% at the end of SY2020.

Goal #2 Mathematics: Improve math literacy skills, and vocabulary attainment to decrease the percentages of students performing at Level 1 or 2 on the Math Milestones EOG by at least 3% at the end of SY2020.

School Plan for Shared Student Achievement

What is it?
This is a plan that describes how Smitha Middle school will provide opportunities to improve family engagement to support student learning. Smitha Middle values the contributions and involvement of families to establish an equal partnership for the common goal of improving student achievement. This plan describes the different ways that Smitha Middle will support family engagement and how parents can help plan and participate in activities and events to promote student learning at school and at home.

Jointly Developed
Smitha Middle School invites all parents to attend Spring and Fall School Improvement meetings to evaluate and revise this parental involvement policy, as well as the school improvement plan, our school-parent compact and the parental involvement budget. Additionally, parent input and comments regarding this plan are welcome during the school year. The plan is posted on our school Web site for parents to view and submit feedback throughout the year. All parent feedback received during the year will be used to revise the plan for the next school year. We also distribute an annual survey that is posted online to ask parents for their suggestions on the plan and the use of funds for parental involvement. Parents can also give feedback during any parent meetings and activities during the school year.

Who is it for?
All students participating in the Title I, Part A program, and their parents and families, are encouraged and invited to fully participate in the opportunities described in this policy. Smitha Middle school will provide full opportunity for the participation of Neglected and Delinquent proxy parents, parents and families with limited English, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children.

Where is it available?
Every family will receive the plan during Parent-Teacher Conference week. It is also available on the school website and a copy is in the front office binder. Parents can also retrieve a copy of the plan in the Parent Resource Center. We will gladly mail the plan to you upon request.

What is Title I?
Smitha Middle is identified as a Schoolwide Title I school as part of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). Title I is designed to support State and local school reform efforts tied to challenging state academic standards which reinforce and enhance efforts to improve teaching and learning for students. Title I programs must be based on effective means of improving student achievement and include strategies to support parental involvement. All Title I schools must jointly develop with all parents a written parental involvement policy.
FY20 Cobb County Schools District Goals

- By the end of the 2021-2022 school year, 100% of schools will continue to use our collaborative data-driven process, Cobb Collaborative Community (CCC), with fidelity to improve learning.
- CCSD will increase the participation rate of families and communities engaging in services/programs by 10% as measured by ParentVUE data, survey results & web view module.
- By the end of the 2019-2020 school year, 100% of the schools and district will use a common district assessment to measure the impact of professional learning which will, in turn, guide decisions on how best to support teachers and leaders in high poverty/needs schools.
- By the end of the 2022 school year increase effective implementation of multi-tiered systems of support by increasing access to programs/resources to prepare students for college and careers as measured by participation rates.

Family-School Compacts
As part of this plan, Smitha Middle and our families will develop a family-school compact, which is an agreement that parents, teachers, and students will develop that explains how parents and teachers will work together to make sure all our students reach grade-level standards. The compacts will be reviewed and updated annually based on feedback from parents, students and teachers during the School Improvement forum. The family-school compacts are distributed the week of October 14-18, 2019. Copies are also available throughout the year with each child’s teacher.

Let’s Get Together!
Smitha Middle will host the following events to build the capacity for strong parental involvement to support a partnership among the school, parents, and community to improve student academic achievement. Title 1 School Improvement Forums will be held at various times to provide opportunities for families to attend.

ParentVUE Activation is ongoing through the school year.
The parent facilitator assists parents in retrieving ParentVUE Activation key and learning how to use features of the online grade monitoring system. Walk-ins are welcome. Special event dates will be announced through Smitha’s communication systems (automated calling, Family Engagement Registration, Smitha website).

Smitha PTSA Open House! August 15, 2019 5:30p.m.-7:00 p.m.
Academic course information sessions for families to learn course content, how to access classroom resources and activate ParentVUE account in support their child’s academic progress in the new school year.

State of the School Meeting is September 5, 2019; 8:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. @ Smitha Middle.
Open discussion with Smitha administration on the School Improvement Plan (SIP), Title 1 services and Family and Community Engagement (F.A.C.E.) programs provided to strengthen student’s academic performance.

Building Staff Capacity Training is throughout the school year; Sept. 9, Nov. 5, Jan. 30 and Mar. 26.
Schoolwide staff training to promote strategies for improving family participation in student achievement.

Fall School Improvement Forum is Oct. 14-18, 2019; 5:30 p.m.
An open-door forum for parents to explain their thoughts and ideas about the parent engagement program, review the school policy and school-family compact.

Building Parent Capacity Training are family activities designed to increase parental support of student academic success: Math, Mommy & Me- Oct. 26 @ 10:00 a.m.; Eggs, Toast & Teachers- Nov. 5 @ 8:00 a.m.; Fathers and Fractions- Nov. 9 @10:00a.m.
Families and teachers working together through fun, engaging learning experiences and honest conversations.

Spring School Improvement Forum is March 24, 2020; 8:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.
A forum for parents to discuss what programs and activities helped their child’s academic progress. Offer suggestions to improve the F.A.C.E. program and examine the parental involvement budget for the next school year.

Rising Six Grade Parent Night is May 7, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.
Rising Six Grade families are introduced to expectations and learning opportunities offered in middle school.

**Smitha Middle School is committed to helping our parents and families attend the family engagement activities in this plan. Please call or email us if you need assistance with childcare or transportation in order to participate in our programs.
Come visit the Parent Resource Center to check out books, study materials, and activities to use at home with your child. Computers are available for parents to explore the ParentVUE, teacher blogs and educational resources. PRC is open Monday to Thursday, 2:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome anytime during the school day.

Parent Resource Center (Rm. 143)

Parental Involvement
Smitha Middle believes that parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- That parents play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning.
- That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school.
- That 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.

Parental Involvement Budget
Smitha Middle Parent Engagement program receives one percent of the total budget of Smitha Middle Title I funds. Those monies are used to assist parents in supporting their child’s learning. Monies are used for resources supplies and dedicated personnel that encourage family involvement in learning. Angela Burris, Parent Facilitator is available to assist you with your academic support requests. For more information please give her a call at 678-594-8267.

One Team, One Goal, Student Success

Smitha Middle will take the following measures to promote and support parents as an important foundation of the school in order to strengthen student academic performance and reach our school goals. We will:

- Ensure that all information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is published in both English and Spanish, posted on the school Web site, and included in the weekly Wednesday message for all parents.
- Provide trainings each semester for staff during their planning periods on strategies to improve communication with parents and ideas to increase family engagement.
- Partner with our feeder schools by conducting joint meetings and events for parents and sending school information about parent engagement activities to help prepare parents and their child for school transitions. The schools that transition into and out of Smitha are Milford, Dowell, Cheatham Hill, Labelle, Birney and Hollydale Elementary schools and Osborne High School.
- Share information in English and Spanish on the school blog and in the school newsletter for parents to understand the school’s academic standards and assessments as well as the ways parents can monitor their child’s progress and work with educators.
- Communicate with all families and the community on a regular basis regarding schoolwide events and activities, through ParentVUE Events, Blackboard Connect phone messages, social media, and flyers.
- Work with our parents to develop relevant trainings and helpful presentations to educate our staff on the importance of parental involvement.
- Provide necessary materials and handouts for parents at conferences, meetings, and activities to help parents work with their child to improve their child’s achievement.
- Use our Parent Facilitators and Education Partners Team to improve awareness of the activities and events listed in the school parental involvement policy.
- Collect feedback from parents at all events and offer a variety of surveys throughout the school year in order to respond to parents’ input regarding parental involvement activities.
Parental Involvement Standards

Smitha Middle and our parents have adopted the National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships as the school’s model in engaging parents, students, and the community. These standards are:

1. Welcoming All Families
2. Communicating Effectively
3. Supporting Student Success
4. Speaking Up for Every Child
5. Sharing Power
6. Collaborating with Community

School Council

Smitha School Council provides advice and recommendations to the principal, the superintendent and potentially, the Cobb County Board of Education. As an advisory body, the council may study a wide range of issues, including student achievement, the school improvement plan, curriculum and instruction, school and community communications, and local school board policies.

If you would like to learn more about the School Council, please contact Chris Salter, principal at (678) 594-8267 or complete the interest form and leave it in the Main Office.

School Council

☐ Yes, I am interested and wish to join the School Council
☐ Please contact me so I can learn more on becoming a School Council Member
☐ Please send me notifications about future meetings and updates

Name: ____________________________________________________________

Child’s Name and Grade: ____________________________________________

Address: _________________________________________________________

Phone Number: ____________________________________________________

Email address: _____________________________________________________

Share Your Thoughts

We want to hear from you. If you have any suggestions or if there is any part of this plan that you feel is not satisfactory with the students’ and the school’s goals for academic achievement, please provide us with your comments in the space provided and leave this form in the Main Office:

Name: (optional) ____________________________________________________

Telephone Number: (optional) _______________________________________

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