

## William Floyd Middle School

### Title 1: School Policy

2019-2020

At William Floyd Middle School, the staff, parents and community work together toward one common goal—the promotion of academic, physical and social emotional health and growth for our students. We understand that the school setting is a continuation of a learning system which begins at home. Parents, community members and school personnel all contribute greatly to the ultimate formation of individuals who are valued as productive contributing members of society. Everyone in our school and community must work in tandem to insure that every student reaches his/her maximum potential. We are all leaders in the effort to educate our children.

WFMS provides a variety of diverse activities for parents to make contributions to the decision making process that ultimately results in the formation or adjustment of policies and activities which directly affect the students. Specifically our parents/guardians are invited to participate in the Shared Decision Making Team, the Parent-Teacher Organization, and Special Education Parent Teacher Organization as well as in our Instructional Support Team and Positive Behavioral Intervention System Team. Through the combined participation of all constituent groups positive change is evoked. Parent voices provide a unique perspective in the exploration of ideas, issues and activities which support positive student growth. Research has shown that strengthening home school connections and collaboration often results in increased student achievement, better attendance, better social skills, and improved behavior. Parents play many instrumental roles in the education of their children including decision maker, advocate, teacher and advisor. We strive to develop and cultivate our parents' ability to assume these roles in a forum of active participation as they partner with WFMS.

WFMS will continue to promote and support the development of our home-school partnership in an effort to increase student achievement by implementing the following:

- WFMS will offer parents/guardians multiple opportunities within a flexible schedule to meet with school personnel in an effort to keep them informed regarding their child's current academic status as well as discuss ways they can assist with increasing overall achievement. These will include but not be limited to two evening parent teacher conferences and flexibly scheduled team meetings, upon parent request, with any or all of their child's teachers in attendance.
- WFMS will actively solicit the attendance of parents who have a student that is receiving Title 1 services to attend/participate in a variety of Title 1 programs. These programs will be supervised by building administration and WFMS instructional staff and focus on enhancing student achievement.
- The school understands its role in educating all students who attend WFMS by utilizing a standards based curriculum to insure that academic achievement is maximized. Title 1 students receive the same assurances with the addition of supports to assist them to effectively navigate the curriculum utilizing compensatory strategies and skill based interventions. Some students will be scheduled for an every other day period of "6<sup>th</sup> Grade Seminar." All 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will participate in an alternative day class entitled "6<sup>th</sup> Grade Seminar" in which they will be taught foundational skills related to academic success and 21<sup>st</sup> century skills including: organization, time management, study skills, stress management and computers. All 7<sup>th</sup> graders will participate in an alternating day class entitled "Academic Core" which will utilize project based teaching as a means of strengthening ELA skills. Some 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will receive Living Environment support or Algebra 1 support to strengthen specific math and reading skills.
- Parents will be encouraged to be active participants in the planning of their child's academic program. Their presence will be requested at instructional support team meetings, behavioral intervention plan meetings, and individual conferences with school support staff including guidance counselors and social workers, and reading/math consultants/educators.
- Parents will be invited to attend a variety of workshops focused on the development and application of integral English Language Arts and Mathematic skills. Our purpose will be to increase students' overall academic achievement. Attention will be given to test taking strategies and skills which are highly correlated with success on the NYS assessments. These programs will include Parent College, a workshop seminar for parents, technical support for computer based initiatives, Regents preparatory classes and a series of "Showcase Night" workshops as well as be promoted through the distribution of materials which assist parents to locate and navigate resources which are beneficial for increasing academic proficiency.

- Parents of incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders will be invited to attend an orientation regarding adolescent growth and development, expectations for the middle level learner, and strategies for providing academic support for their child as they move into secondary education. In addition, students will be invited to attend a series of transitional events with/without their parents culminating in a parent/student walk-through prior to the commencement of the school year.
- Explicit connections inclusive to the home-school connection will be cultivated as parents are invited to attend specific WFMS events. These workshops and evening programs are designed to facilitate student success at the middle level and include “Improving Academics with Interactive Activities” and “ELA and Math across the Curriculum.”
- Parents will be informed of Title 1 programs, meetings, and events through web-based communications, mailings and school distribution.
- Parents will have the ability to relate complaints and accolades regarding specific Title 1 activities/programs as well as those related to any other aspect of educational life at WFMS through direct communication with the WFMS leadership team as well as through the completion of anonymous surveys. If further discussion is required meetings will be arranged with the District Superintendent or the Federal Grants Administrator.

At WFMS we strive to develop and maintain a healthy and academically productive learning environment for our students by working in tandem with their parents. We possess a strong commitment to utilizing strong family involvement as the cornerstone of a successful educational facility. Our goal is to unite –parents, staff and students – to insure that our students are prepared with all the necessary skills for them to build a better tomorrow.